

# CUESTA

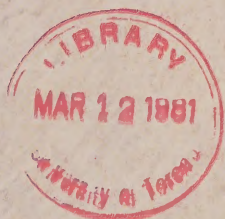
A Niagara Escarpment Commission Publication

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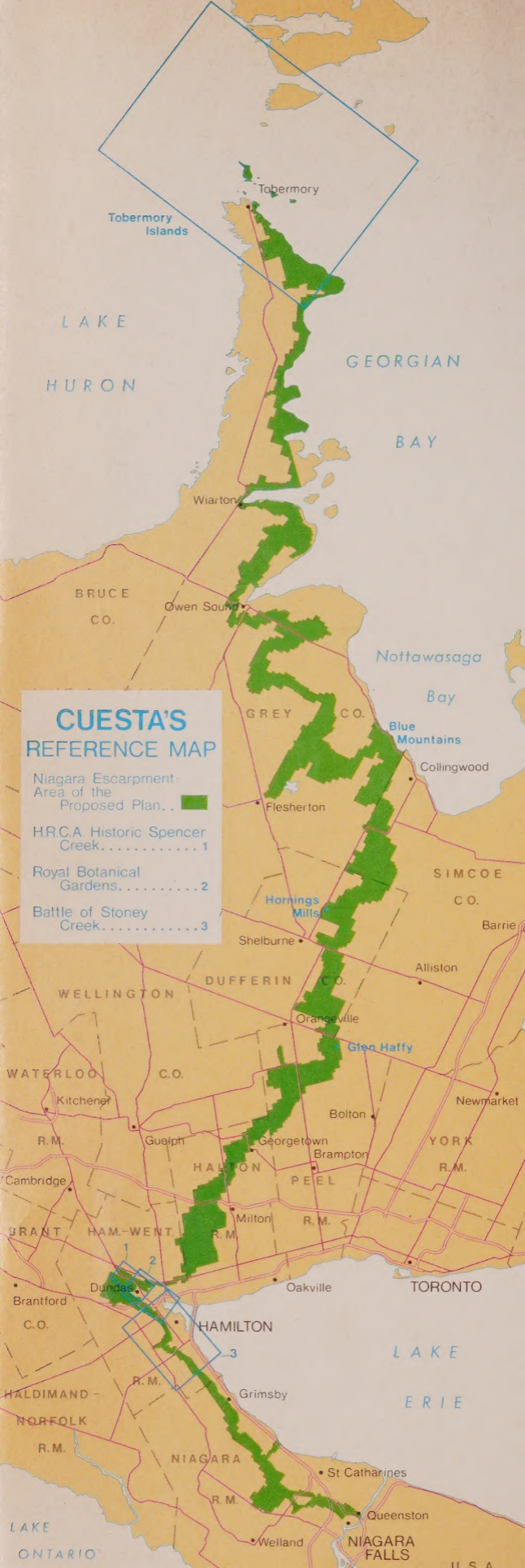
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SPRING 1981





**Ontario**

**Niagara  
Escarpment  
Commission**

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*(as of December 1, 1980)*

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*(as of December 1, 1980)*

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**PHOTOGRAPHY AND MAPPING**

Front Cover: The Lion's Head Escarpment, Eastnor Township, Bruce County.

Rear Cover: The Niagara Escarpment and Bayview Escarpment Forest near the St. Vincent and Sydenham Township Line, Grey County.

Photographs by David Cossette except as credited.

Mapping: Robert Pepper and John Novosad. Final film produced by the Reprographic Centre, Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

## From the Editor:

Welcome to **Cuesta** . . . and welcome back to those readers who have been following the Escarpment debate with keen interest over the past few years. This is the fifth edition of **Cuesta**, the Niagara Escarpment Commission's information magazine.

In this edition, we are focusing on some of the Escarpment related historical events which have given this unique area of Ontario such a proud and distinguished heritage.

We take a look at the Battle of Stoney Creek in the early hours of June 6, 1813, and the exploits of Ontario's own Paul Revere — an Escarpment legendary hero by the name of Billy Green "The Scout".

Not far from the battlefield, **Cuesta** also visits the Erland Lee Home where the world-wide "Women's Institute" was formed in 1897.

**Cuesta** has researched another Escarpment legend — that of the Honourable James Crooks, 1778-1860. The dynamic accomplishments of this Escarpment area entrepreneur, industrialist and politician during the early 19th century can only be considered amazing.

We learn also of a present day Escarpment resident who fought to get his community — the historic hamlet of Horning's Mills — put back on the map.

Public executions in Ontario for treason? It happened in 1813 as the story of the Ancaster's Bloody Asize recounts the dramatic historical event.

In this edition, we learn of the incredible recent discovery of two 1812 warships, in near-perfect condition, resting on the bottom of Lake Ontario near St. Catharines, and the ambitious and farsighted plans by the City of Hamilton and other supporters to retrieve the ships for public display.

Another article focuses on the attractions at the world-renowned Royal Botanical Gardens and area

sites, as well as some tall facts on arboreal aristocrats from the Ontario Forestry Association's Honour Roll of Trees.

Other articles rounding out this edition include an update on the public hearings into the Commission's Proposed Plan; the recent purchase by Parks Canada of 14 Tobermory Islands; exciting plans to expand the four-season community of Blue Mountain Resorts Limited near Collingwood; "slow poke" senior citizen hikers who prove that age is no barrier to hiking the Escarpment — including, the remarkable accomplishments of Ida Sainsbury, a grandmother who has set some enviable long-distance hiking records; recreational opportunities and the historic beauty of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority's Spencer Creek area; and the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's tranquil buried Escarpment property at Glen Haffy.

During 1980, the Commission lost two stalwart and outstanding Commission members Ivan Buchanan and Lee Symmes (see inside rear cover).

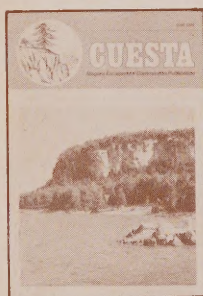
To compound our sorrow, the senior staff member of the Commission, Brigadier-General Gerald R. A. Coffin died of a heart attack on the last day of the Phase 1 public hearings in Owen Sound (see opposite page).

A sincere thank you to all those who have assisted us in our research, and a particular vote of thanks to Art Lightbourn, Pat Soper, Betty Braithwaite and to Commission staff cartographers Robert Pepper and John Novosad.

*David Cossette*

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1st Edition



1974

2nd Edition



1977

3rd Edition



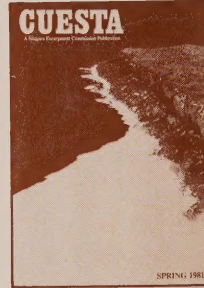
1979

4th Edition



1980

5th Edition



1981

### Cuesta — A Collector's Item?

The first two editions of **Cuesta** (1974 and 1977) are out of print and have become collectors' items to hundreds of Niagara Escarpment area enthusiasts and landowners. A limited number of the remaining editions are still available by contacting the Niagara Escarpment Commission's Information Office, Georgetown, Ont., telephone (416) 877-5191.

The name **Cuesta**, originally a Spanish term meaning flank or slope of a hill, in geological terms means a ridge composed of gently dipping rock strata with a long gradual slope on one side, and a relatively steep scarp on the other. **Cuesta** (pronounced Quest-ah) is printed by Heritage Press Ltd. Mississauga, Ont.

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## '... a Superb Administrator and Gentleman'



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This edition of **Cuesta** is dedicated to Brigadier-General Gerald R. A. Coffin, Executive Director of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, who died of a heart attack in Owen Sound on January 8, 1981.

General Coffin was the senior staff member of the Commission involved in the preparation of the Proposed Plan for the Niagara Escarpment.

He was in Owen Sound to participate in the reply evidence sessions relating to Phase I of the public hearings on the Plan at the time of his death.

Commission Chairman Ivor McMullin said: "The passing of Gerry Coffin came as a great shock to all Niagara Escarpment Commission members and staff. He was a superb administrator and a gentleman who had the respect of all those who had the privilege of working with him and knowing him."

Born January 12, 1919, in Gaspé, Que., a descendant of an old Nantucket whaling family, Gerald Coffin attended Dalhousie University and Queen's University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1938.

His distinguished military career, spanning 37 years, began as a gunner in the militia in 1936. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Canadian Army in November, 1940, and retired from the Canadian Armed Forces, as a Brigadier-General, in 1973.

At the time of his retirement he was the Chief of Staff, Support Services, Air Transport Command, Trenton. Prior to that, he was the Commanding Officer, Army Headquarters, Ontario Region, Oakville.

He was a 1967 graduate from the National Defence College, Kingston, and in his last six years of military service was responsible, in addition to his other duties, for emergency military response in aid of the civil power in Ontario. In this capacity he was involved

in the "October Crisis" of 1970 and also commanded military forces sent to the Kingston Penitentiary in 1971 to deal with the largest and most serious prison riot in Canadian history.

Upon his retirement from the Canadian Armed Forces in 1973, he joined the Ontario Public Service and served for a year with the Ontario Ministry of The Solicitor General.

In November 1974, he was seconded to the Niagara Escarpment Commission as the Executive Director.

In 1978, he was created a Knight of Grace of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem. The following year he was named the Grand Sword Bearer of the Order in Canada. The Order, commanded by H.R.H. Prince Francis of Borbon et Borbon of the Royal House of Spain, is the premier hospitaller of chivalry in the world today.

He was a long-standing member of the Executive Committee of the St. John Ambulance Council for Ontario and was a former Provincial Commissioner for the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Ontario.

General Coffin was active in Scouting and Military Cadets and was a former director of the Royal Canadian Military Institute, Toronto. He was also a member of the Old Fort York Legion and was the Oakville area chairman of the Canadian Cancer Society.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Edwards; three daughters and a son: Martha and Anne Coffin of Oakville, Susan Burgess of Ottawa and the Venerable Peter Coffin of Hull, Que.

Officially his title was: "Brigadier-General, the Chevalier Gerald Robert Alvah Coffin, CSTJ, CD, KLJ."

Gerry Coffin was an admirable, decisive, yet quiet and unassuming gentleman.

Ed.

## Phase I Concludes; Phase II Continues

Scheduled Phase I hearings dealing with general issues contained in the Niagara Escarpment Commission's Proposed Plan have now been completed — and the remaining Phase II hearings into specific and sector aspects of the Plan are slated for 1981.

The public hearings, required under The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, are examining in detail the Commission's 84-page Proposed Plan. Also under examination are the data supporting the Commission's recommended land-use policies and designations for the 1,923 square-kilometre (742 square-mile) Escarpment area that extends through 46 Ontario municipalities.

At the conclusion of the Proposed Plan hearings, the three-man hearing panel will provide the Commission with a summary of the representations and a report stating whether the Plan should be accepted, rejected or modified. The Provincial Secretary for Resources Development will also be furnished with a copy of the report.

After considering the hearing officers' report, the Commission will submit the Proposed Plan together with its final recommendations to the Provincial Secretary. The report and recommendations will be made available at municipal offices and other locations for inspection by the public.

The Provincial Secretary is then required by legislation to submit his recommendations on the Proposed Plan to Cabinet for approval. However, if the Provincial Secretary does not accept one or more of the hearing officers' recommendations, public notice shall be given and within 21 days anyone may make representations to Cabinet.

Because the area of the Proposed Plan stretches 725 kilometres from Queenston to Tobermory, the three hearing officers — on loan from the Ontario Municipal Board — conducted Phase I hearings in both Ancaster in the south and Owen Sound in the north to accommodate Escarpment area residents.

*During both Phase I hearings — beginning in Ancaster on April 14, 1980, and later in Owen Sound on August 12, 1980 — the Commission staff made an*

*identical detailed presentation explaining the intent of the Plan and the supporting background data.*

The Commission presenters were led by Chairman Ivor McMullin and Executive Director Gerald Coffin.

Reports presented by the Commission included: public information; concept of the Proposed Plan; socio-economic considerations; geology and geomorphology; land-use/land fragmentation; official plans; landscape evaluation; environmental analysis; designation criteria and policies; development criteria; mineral resources; parks system; administration and implementation; general recommendations; precedents for environmental planning; and economic considerations.

As part of the Commission's presentation, briefs were also presented by the Ministries of Natural Resources; Culture and Recreation; Environment; the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth; the Credit Valley Conservation Authority; and the Regional Municipality of Halton.

*During the Ancaster Phase I hearing Chief Hearing Officer Armour McCrae, assisted by Walter Shrivess and M. Dean Henderson, heard approximately 60 presentations and received more than a dozen additional written submissions.*

Following the Ancaster Phase I hearing, the hearing officers heard approximately 40 Phase II submissions dealing with specific aspects of the Plan in the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth.

The Owen Sound Phase I hearing continued into January, 1981, with approximately 80 briefs and submissions being presented.

Still to come are the remaining Phase II hearings, the first of which began February 16 in Caledon East for the Regional Municipality of Peel.

Subsequent Phase II hearings are planned for Bruce, Grey, Simcoe and Dufferin counties, and the regional municipalities of Halton and Niagara.

Anyone wishing to participate in the remaining Phase II hearings should contact the Administrator, Niagara Escarpment Proposed Plan Hearing, Box 7, Macdonald Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, M7A 1N3, Telephone (416) 877-0153. ■

## 'Project of Century':

# Two War of 1812 Gunships to be Raised from Lake Ontario



PHOTO: COURTESY DAN NELSON

*Dr. Dan Nelson (left) and Calypso submariner Albert Falco brief Jacques Cousteau on their surveillance of Hamilton (Diana) which has rested for over 175 years in near perfect condition on the bottom of Lake Ontario.*

In any historical study of the Niagara Escarpment, the name of the Honourable James Crooks (1778-1860) keeps popping up.

And it's doing it again.

This time in connection with the proposed raising of two War of 1812 American gunships from their watery grave 92 metres beneath the surface of Lake Ontario, several miles off Port Dalhousie near St. Catharines.

The venture, called the *Hamilton-Scourge Project*, has been described by Dr. A. D. Tushingham, former chief archaeologist of the Royal Ontario Museum, as "the most important (historic) project of the century".

James Crooks and his brother, William, were the owners of *Scourge*, which with its sister-ship, *Hamilton*, capsized and sank during a violent storm in the summer of 1813. Acoustic, photographic, TV probes —

and most recently visual observation from a submarine — have revealed that the ships are lying remarkably intact in 92 metres (300 feet) about 9.7 km (six miles) off Port Dalhousie in a frigid 4 degrees Celsius. Covered with a thin layer of velvet-like sediment, the ships are standing upright on the bottom of the lake — with remnants of rigging still clinging to their spars, guns in place, cannonballs strewn across their decks and the skeletal remains of their crews in the portals.

Crooks was an enterprising Scot. He came to present day "Niagara-on-the-Lake" from Fort Niagara, New York in 1797. During the War of 1812 he commanded a company of the 1st Lincoln Militia against American invaders at the Battle of Queenston Heights. After his home in Niagara was burned during the war,

he re-established himself and his business on the Escarpment above Dundas, near Hamilton, in a settlement later named Crooks' Hollow.

It was at Crooks' Hollow where the indefatigable James Crooks created an industrial empire which included the first paper mill in Upper Canada.

Crooks also served his fellow Canadians for more than 25 years in the Legislative Assembly.

Ironically, his ownership of a ship now at the bottom of Lake Ontario may eventually bring him more lasting fame than his many and varied business enterprises (see page 33).

Crooks' ship — originally christened *Lord Nelson* — was built for the Crooks brothers in 1811 in Newark (Fort George, now Niagara-on-the-Lake) by John MacFarlane. It was a 110-ton merchant schooner, reputedly one of the largest and best ships on the lake at that time.

On June 5, 1812, two weeks before the War of 1812 was declared, *Lord Nelson*, freighting flour and regular cargo from Prescott to Niagara, was captured and confiscated by the American brig *Oneida*. Diverted to the American naval base at Sackets Harbour at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, *Lord Nelson* was refitted and emerged as the USS *Scourge*, mounting ten guns — and helping to form a hastily-assembled American lake fleet of 13 vessels, the smallest mounting only one gun.

The British, by comparison, had fewer ships, but the ships they had were deadly — four heavily-gunned warships led by the 22-gun ship-sloop *Royal George*.

The *Scourge*'s sister-ship, USS *Hamilton*, was also

a refitted merchant schooner, 112 tons, built at Ogdensburg, N.Y., and originally christened *Diana*. It was purchased by the American Navy in the summer of 1812.

Although the Americans had 13 armed vessels on the lake, the unequal sizes of the ships and their varying sailing capabilities made them difficult to deploy as a united force — and the situation was further complicated by the fact that the refitted merchant schooners, made unstable by the mounting of heavy guns, were practically useless in rough seas.

In support of landings, however, the schooners proved valuable not only as troop carriers but in covering assaults by engaging shore batteries.

*Scourge* and *Hamilton* were highly praised by the American Commodore Isaac Chauncey for their part in the capture of York (Toronto) on April 27, 1813 and Fort George a month later.

Later that summer, on August 7, 1813, the British and American squadrons finally faced each other off the mouth of the Niagara River. After a day of manoeuvring in the wind to get close enough to engage each other, Commodore Chauncey gave the recall signal and formed his ships in close order to ride out the night.

About 1 a.m. a sudden squall struck separating *Hamilton* and *Scourge* from the flotilla.

The American author James Fenimore Cooper, in his *History of the American Navy*, wrote: "*The wind came from the westward in the night, and it blew in squalls. All the vessels were at quarters, carrying sail to gain the wind of the enemy, with a view to engaging him in the morning . . . It is supposed, as all the vessels were at quarters, and the guns loose, that when the gust struck the vessels, their heavy guns which worked on slides, with the shot on deck, went to leeward, and helped to carry these two schooners over.*"

One of *Scourge*'s survivors, American seaman Ned Myers, later gave Cooper the following eye-witness account:

"*The flashes of lightning were incessant, and nearly blinded me. Our decks seemed on fire, and yet I could see nothing. I heard no hail, no order, no call; but the schooner was filled with the shrieks and cries of the men to leeward, who were lying jammed under the guns, shot-boxes, shot and other heavy things that had gone down as the vessel fell over.*"

Myers leaped into the raging waters, was pulled down by the suction of the sinking ship, then struggled to the surface and managed to scramble aboard a small boat the *Scourge* had been towing.

The ships went down within 500 metres of each other with all but 20\* of their crew members in the two ships. British ships picked up the survivors.

That was 167 years ago.

In 1970, diver-archaeologist-dentist Dr. Dan Nelson of St. Catharines was asked by the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) to research what, if any, shipwrecks in Lake Ontario might have been responsible for a number of old coins found on a beach near Hamilton.

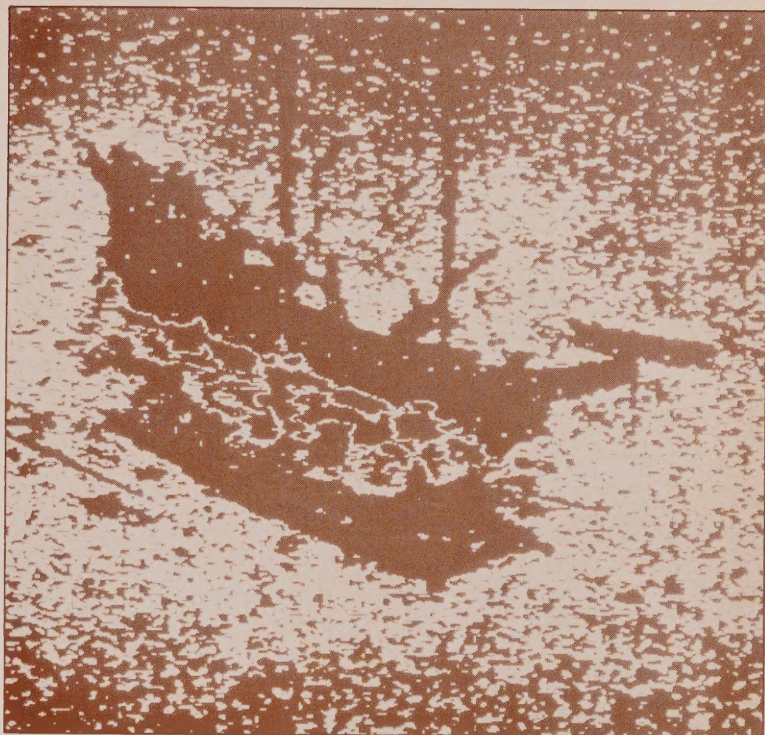
As it turned out, the coins came from no ship, but in his research, Dr. Nelson became intrigued by the story



The picture, drawn by the late C.H.J. Snider from a careful study of the records, shows *Lord Nelson* (*Scourge*) at the moment of her capture by the American brig *Oneida*, June 5, 1812, two weeks before the War of 1812 was declared.

\* The official "muster rolls" indicate that *Scourge* carried 32 crew members, 11 of whom reportedly survived, and *Hamilton* had a crew of 41, nine of whom survived.

An eerie, computer-enhanced, photo image derived from acoustic data during side-scan sonar operations, shows *Hamilton* lying at the bottom of Lake Ontario, near St. Catharines. The varying intensities of the reflected acoustic signal are shown in different shades of brown with the lightest colour representing the strongest reflection. The acoustic shadow of the ship is shown in dark brown. This interesting image is the result of side-scan data collected by Ken McMillan, Canada Centre for Inland Waters, Burlington, and enhanced by Peter Paluzzi, of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California.



of *Hamilton* and *Scourge*. In 1972, with the aid of a search ship using sophisticated magnetic and sonar detection equipment, a systematic sweep over 1,200 nautical miles (40 square miles of lake bottom) was launched.

On the last day of the second season of searching, a tiny "blip" appeared on the sonar screen.

"It wasn't well defined," Dr. Nelson recalled, "and it was only recorded once before our equipment packed it in, but it kept our spirits alive until we could return the following year."

In July, 1975, the search was resumed — and there on the sonar screen appeared "two beautiful images".

In November of the same year, an underwater TV camera was trained on the ships and there, through the murky, ice-cold water, the camera distinguished the ships' hulls, cannons, cannonballs, masts, rigging, skeletons, and even porcelain bowls and plates.

But it was not until September 8, 1980, five years after the first 'confirmed' sonar sighting of the ships — that Dr. Nelson was actually to "see" *Hamilton*.

With the assistance of Jacques Cousteau and the research ship *Calyпсо*, Dr. Nelson descended 92 metres in a two-man submarine with *Calyпсо* diver Albert Falco.

"That's when I saw the most remarkable thing in my life . . .," Dr. Nelson recalled. "It was the head of the *Hamilton's* figurehead — an absolutely beautiful girl, brilliantly and incredibly carved."

The figurehead is that of the Greek goddess Diana. "I got a lump in my throat when I saw it . . . and I still do," he said.

The ships will be examined in detail next summer to determine how they can best be raised.

"To date," Dr. Nelson said, "no sunken ships of the age, importance and state of preservation of *Hamilton* and *Scourge* have been discovered. Only *Vasa* of Stockholm, Sweden, can compare. *Vasa*, which sank about 20 minutes into her maiden voyage in 1623, is larger and older, but not nearly as intact."

Interestingly, the Crooks brothers, shortly after the War of 1812, petitioned the American government for restitution for the illegal capture of their ship. The family was awarded \$5,000 compensation shortly after the War.

"In 1817," Dr. Nelson said, "the amount was paid in cash to a court in upper New York State for disbursement to the Crooks brothers, but the clerk of the court absconded with the money."

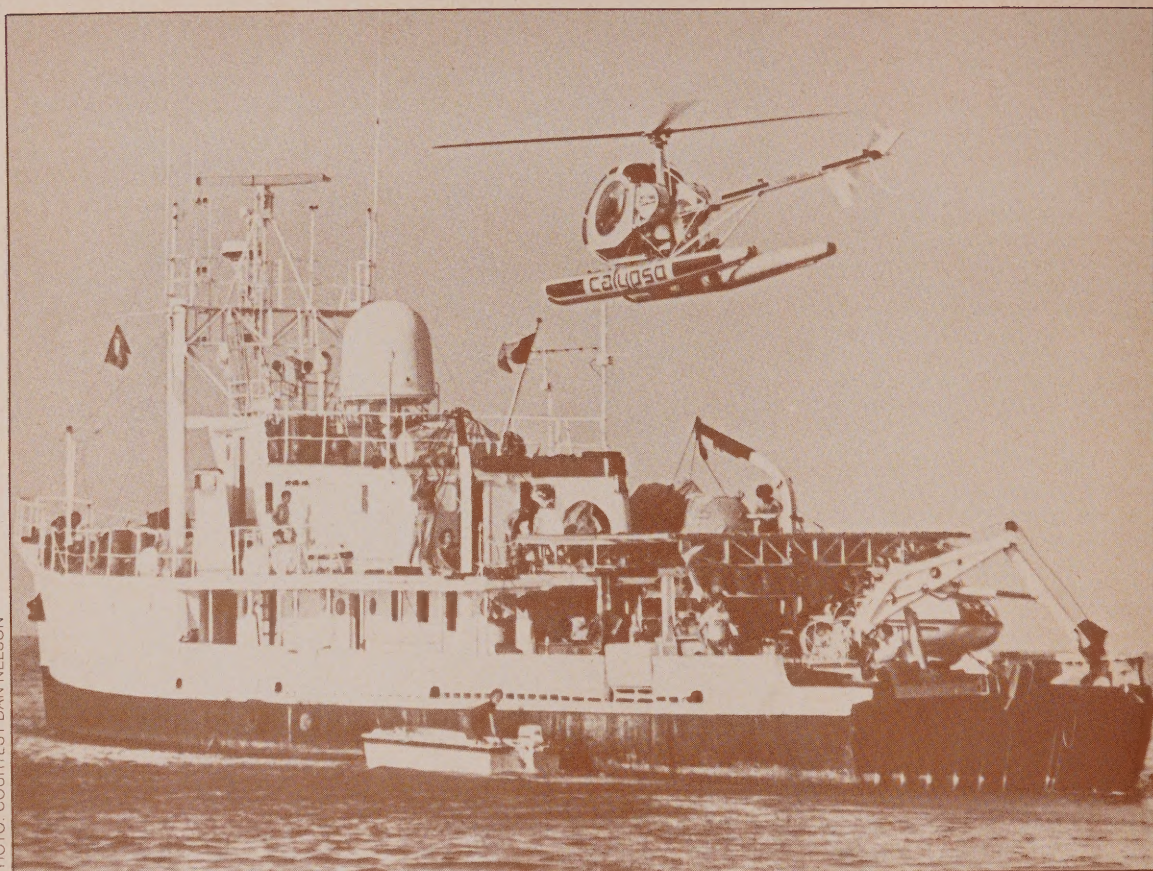
The matter was finally settled in 1928 — 115 years after the loss of *Lord Nelson (Scourge)* — when the U.S. paid the Crooks' family heirs the award plus 4 per cent per year simple interest for a total of nearly \$24,000.

The title of the two ships, therefore, undeniably belonged to the U.S. Navy — and, Dr. Nelson said, the U.S. Navy had never previously relinquished title to any of its sunken ships which had human remains on board.

"I think it is in recognition of the calibre of research that we have done to date on the project that the U.S. Navy, with the approval of the U.S. Congress, allowed the transfer of title to Canada."

The agreement with the U.S. specifies that the remains of the dead shall be returned — and that the ships shall be preserved and displayed with good taste.

Title of the ships has been transferred to the City of



Jacques Cousteau's famous ship *Calypso* arrives on station last summer over Hamilton-Scourge location, several kilometres off Port Dalhousie near St. Catharines.

Over the years the Hamilton-Scourge project has been supported by the Office of the Chief Archaeologist of the

Royal Ontario Museum, the Canada Centre for Inland Waters (Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada), the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, Parks Canada, the Canadian Hydrographic Service, National Museums Canada, and the Canadian Conservation Institute.

Hamilton, via the Royal Ontario Museum, and the project itself is being administered by a non-profit organization under the direction of the Hamilton-Scourge Steering Committee chaired by Hamilton Alderman Bill McCulloch.

The committee, McCulloch said, is currently raising an initial \$400,000 to finance a detailed scientific survey of both ships in the summer of 1981.

Hydrospace Marine Services of St. John's, Newfoundland, will conduct the survey.

The survey will test the condition of the ships' wood, the surrounding lake bottom, and the location of debris to determine the best method of raising and preserving the ships.

*Initial plans call for raising the ships on giant slings, floating them to Hamilton's Confederation Park, and placing them in a large aquarium-like tank of cold, conditioned fresh water.*

Exposure to air, Dr. Nelson said, would disintegrate the ships and their artifacts — so the plan is to keep the ships and their contents under water.

"The dry conservation of many thousands of artifacts associated with the ships," Dr. Nelson explained, "will proceed gradually as the artifacts are recovered

by divers from the hulls of the ships in the tank and will continue at leisure in the conservation facility within the complex and in view of the public."

*Dr. Nelson and his colleagues are hoping that the Hamilton-Scourge conservation, display and support facilities will be operational within five years at an estimated cost of \$7 to \$10 million.*

Hopefully also, Dr. Nelson said, the complex will develop into an international centre for War of 1812 naval history and a major tourist attraction in Ontario — rivaling Toronto's CN Tower.

Chairman McCulloch said the steering committee is interested in hearing from anyone with special knowledge of the War of 1812 — or who may have any ship's logs, documents, paintings, swords, etc. that could be used in the proposed museum that would be part of the Hamilton-Scourge complex.

Contact Ald. McCulloch in the Hamilton City Hall, 527-0241, ext. 287 or write to:

The Hamilton-Scourge Steering Committee,  
City Hall,  
71 King Street West,  
HAMILTON, Ontario,  
L8N 3T4.

# Potter Performs Magic — Makes Hamlet Re-appear

Horning's Mills is admittedly tiny. But when it completely vanished from the Ontario provincial road map in 1978 that was too much for Stan Hutchings, one of Horning's Mills' 190 residents. Hutchings, a former Toronto merchandising executive who gave up city life in 1973 to become a potter, determined to put his adopted hamlet back on the map —and to do so he launched a one-man crusade. The normally quiet and retiring potter contacted the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to find out why this vital Dufferin County community had been dropped from the map. MTC said the community did not meet the criteria designed to simplify the 1:800,000 scale maps. To qualify for a spot on the map, a community would have to provide at least some basic tourist services such as food, lodging and a gasoline station; or possess some special historical or tourist significance. "These and other criteria arise out of concern for the driving public," stated an MTC spokesman. Technically, according to MTC, Horning's Mills did not have any of these services. But, Hutchings argued in a 13-point letter to the Ministry, that two grocery stores and gas stations located on nearby Highway 24 were considered "local"

PHOTO P. SOPER



Stan Hutchings

and the community had several cottage industries, a post office, its own postal code, a community hall, two churches, one subdivision — and a past that should qualify the community as a place of historical significance. The community was first settled in 1830 by Lewis Horning, a settler from Hamilton who cleared 80 acres on Lot 14 on the First Concession and built a sawmill, gristmill and frame house. He later returned to the Hamilton area after the tragic and never-solved disappearance of his nine-year old son and three other children.

During the 1800's the community continued to grow as settlers, attracted by abundant Escarpment water-power, built mills and farmed the land. "No history of Horning's Mills would be complete without mention of the Huxtable family," said Jaan Tuju, supervisor of the Pine River Outdoor Education Centre.

The first Huxtable to settle in the area, James, became Reeve of Melancthon in 1880 — the last man to represent Grey County Council before Dufferin County was formed.

His son, Tom Huxtable, harnessed the power of the Pine River and brought hydro-electricity to the homes of Horning's Mills, Shelburne and parts of Orangeville by 1904.



Before

After

## Extensive Neutral Collection 'On Loan' to Woodland Centre



PHOTO: COURTESY JOHN C. MORTON

John (Jack) B. Morton  
1906-1976

One of the most extensive collections of Neutral Indian artifacts found on the Escarpment has been turned over to the Woodland Indian Cultural Educational Centre in Brantford.

The 9,000-artifact collection was loaned recently to the Centre in accordance with the will of the late John (Jack) B. Morton, an Ancaster-area farmer and dedicated self-taught archaeologist.

Provincial archaeologist William Fox, who directed the cataloguing of the collection after Morton's death in 1976, said it constitutes "one of the foremost private collections of historic Neutral artifacts in existence."

Some of the artifacts, Fox said, date back 8,000 years and include weapons, tools, cooking vessels, carved antler combs and carved stone tobacco pipes.

"Most of the pieces," he added, "derive from village and cemetery sites in the Ancaster vicinity and were obtained during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Since virtually all historic Neutral cemeteries

have been looted, much of the Morton collection material must be considered unique."

Jack Morton in the book *Ancaster's Heritage*, estimated that humans have probably lived in Ancaster Township since soon after the last ice age, about 10,000 years ago.

The earliest known European to visit the Hamilton-Ancaster area was Etienne Brulé who, in 1615, found Neutral Indians living there.

*The Neutrals apparently got their name by remaining neutral in raids and wars between the Senecas of New York State to the south and the Hurons of the Bruce Peninsula to the north.*

The Neutrals were a farming people who grew corn, beans, squash, tobacco and presumably other crops.

In disposing of their dead, the Neutrals had some curious, but typically Iroquoian, customs. They kept corpses inside their huts throughout the winter, before putting them out to decompose on scaffolds erected close to their camp. Later, when the bodies had been reduced almost to skeletons, the bones were collected and deposited with various artifacts in a deep pit (ossuary) a short distance from the campsite. The accumulated bones received formal burial at one and the same time, during the celebrated "Feast of the Dead", held every ten or twelve years, and constituting a ceremony common to the whole Neutral Nation.

Diamond Jenness, an authority on Indian culture, states: "... since all the tribes re-interred their dead at the same time, the entire country was drowned in tears for nearly a fortnight, although feasting, archery contests, and liberal distribution of presents throughout the proceedings mitigated the strain of the prolonged mourning, and even introduced a measure of entertainment."

The Senecas eventually defeated the Hurons in 1649. A year later, they wiped out the Neutral nation. A century later the Senecas returned south to their former homelands in New York State and, as they withdrew, the Mississaugas from the Manitoulin area in the north infiltrated the area. The Indian Era ended in the Hamilton area in 1784 when the British bought the Niagara Peninsula from the Mississaugas.

(Continued on page 43)



*Russ McMullin, Superintendent of Glen Haffy Forest and Wildlife Area, (left) explains the trout hatchery program to his brother, Ivor McMullin, Chairman of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.*

## Glen Haffy Offers Fun and Fishing



*Fishing Derby at the Glen Haffy Forest and Wildlife Area.*

Anglers are a patient breed — quiet and unassuming — happy with life's simpler pleasures.

However, the thrill of landing the first rainbow trout of the season from the clear cold Escarpment water at Glen Haffy Forest and Wildlife Area is enough to make most of them ecstatic.

Located within the watershed of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) just south of Mono Mills and Highway 9 on Airport Road, the Glen Haffy Forest and Wildlife Area boasts four well-stocked trout ponds.

Open to the public from early May until late September, Glen Haffy offers approximately 390 hectares (970 acres) of wooded Escarpment and open space for family picnics.

Under the watchful eye of Russ McMullin, Superintendent of Glen Haffy for the past 22 years, an extensive trout hatchery program provides one of the finest fishing and wildlife retreats in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

"Our success depends on an abundant supply of clean, cold 8°C (46°F) water from the Escarpment springs and the quality of care we give the 45,000 trout fry each year," McMullin explained.

Eight cement and six wooden fish rearing troughs

inside the hatchery are scrubbed and disinfected regularly and screens and filters are continually replaced to keep the young fry healthy.

From December until May each year, the trout fry remain in the hatchery until they are large enough to be released into the four rearing ponds outside where, in slightly warmer water, they continue to grow.

Glen Haffy currently supplies rainbow trout to other fishing areas within the MTRCA's watershed — Heart Lake, Bruce's Mills and Clairmont.

But, excellent sport fishing is not all Glen Haffy has to offer.

Two trails — the Bruce Hiking Trail and the Great Pine Ridge Equestrian Trail — traverse the property and provide vantage points from which the rolling countryside of the Escarpment may be viewed.

Also, an innovative reforestation program has introduced 320,000 white pine, red pine and spruce and 4,000 shrubs to provide habitat for the abundant wildlife of the area.

Dr. Walter Tovell of the Royal Ontario Museum and a member of MTRCA said that during the ice age Glen Haffy was covered by glacial ice approximately 2,000 metres thick. As the ice advanced from the northeast,

(Continued on page 31)

## Parks Canada Acquires 14 Tobermory Islands

Just four months after the release of the Proposed Plan for the Niagara Escarpment, the federal government announced that Parks Canada was acquiring 14 of the Tobermory Islands as a 920-hectare (2,300-acre) extension of the Georgian Bay Islands National Park.

Parks Canada had for some time considered the islands of national significance and worthy of protection as part of Georgian Bay Islands National Park.

Because Parks Canada only acquires lands with the approval of the affected provinces, the Niagara Escarpment Commission's recommendation that the islands be preserved "opened the door" to their acquisition.

*Situated approximately four kilometres north of Tobermory at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula, the Tobermory Islands mark the last visible portion of the Niagara Escarpment before it submerges to re-appear as Manitoulin Island. Protected by their relative isolation, the islands have remained in a natural state, rich in rare ferns, orchids and wildlife.*

However, increased pressure to develop the islands could have put an end to that.

Preservation of the islands was so crucial in the opinion of the Niagara Escarpment Commission that the Tobermory Islands were placed at the top of a proposed five-year acquisition list for Escarpment parklands.

On April 21, 1980, Parks Canada completed the purchase of 14 islands from Tobermory Islands Development Limited at a cost of \$315,000.

The islands are: Cove Island — 883 hectares (2,182 acres); Cape Hurd Islands Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 5A, 11, 12 and 16 — 1.4 hectares (3.5 acres); Cape Hurd Island No. 17 — 1 hectare (2.5 acres); North Otter Island — 28 hectares (69 acres); South Otter Island — 11 hectares (27 acres); Turning Island — 1.8 hectares (4.5 acres); and Williscroft Island — 22 hectares (55 acres); for a total of 949 hectares (2,343.5 acres).

Until this purchase, the Georgian Bay Islands National Park had a total land area of 13.9 square kilometres composed of nearly 50 small islands scattered along 62 kilometres of the Georgian Bay shoreline. Beausoliel Island — largest of all the Park Islands

— lying just off Honey Harbour, provides the focal point and the interpretative centre of the 50-island National Park.

Flowerpot Island, situated six kilometres off the tip of the Bruce Peninsula, was previously the only federally-owned island in the Tobermory group and lay 144 kilometres to the northwest of Beausoliel Island.

Legend indicates that this mystical island was shrouded in ancient taboos, keeping it inviolate from even Indian habitation.

*John E. Lewis, Parks Canada assistant regional director, said interim management guidelines are currently being prepared for the islands.*

"Before we can determine possible directions for these newly acquired islands, discussions with Ontario must be completed that will establish the role of Georgian Bay Islands National Park in the provincial context of preservation, recreation and tourism. These discussions precede the detailed planning of all national parks."

Flowerpot Island, alone, is currently accessible by public transport on a regular basis from Tobermory. The recent introduction of "glass-bottomed" tour boats which travel over numerous historic wrecks has increased visitation to Flowerpot Island and the use of Fathom Five Provincial Park — a popular diving area.

A Ministry of Natural Resources' brochure "Diving and the Shipwrecks of Fathom Five Provincial Park" lists 14 wrecks giving locations and pertinent diving information.

Docking facilities and picnic sites on Flowerpot Island are located at Beachy Cove on the southeastern shoreline. The picnic area includes a shelter, tables and fireplaces. Six campsites (\$3.00 per night) are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

A self-guiding trail book and other information is available through:

The Superintendent,  
Georgian Bay Islands National Park,  
Box 28,  
Honey Harbour, Ontario,  
P0E 1E0.

Gat Point

1  
2  
3

5 5A

Slag Island

6 ASS  
11

12

COVE

Channel Point  
600 ISLAND

Eagle Point

Gig Point

MANITOULIN I.

Owen Channel

Fitzwilliam Island

Fitzwilliam Channel

Yeo I.

Lucas I.

Main Channel

# TOBERMORY ISLANDS

Parks Canada Acquisitions:

- Cove Island - 883 ha... North Otter Island - 28 ha...
- South Otter Island - 11 ha... Williscroft Island - 22 ha...
- Turning Island - 18 ha... Cape Hurd Islands 1, 2, 3, 5, 5A, 11, 12 and 16 - 14 ha... Cape Hurd Island 17 - 1 ha.
- Niagara Escarpment: Proposed Plan Area

.....

N

Scale 1:250,000

5 0 Miles 5

5 0 Kilometres 5

Inset maps Scale 1:50,000

Niagara Escarpment Commission

## GEORGIAN BAY

Flowerpot I. forms part of the Georgian Bay Islands National Park

VE PROV. PARK

Bears Bump I.

Cove I.

Echo I.

Flowerpot I.

MccGregor Channel

Russel I.

Dunks Pt.

West Flowerpot Island

Castle the Flowerpots

Middle Bluff

South Bluff

Becky Cove

N

CYPRUS LAKE PROV. PARK

Cave Pt.

Cape Hurd

Hopkins Bay

Dorcos Bay

Emmett I.

6

Crane I.

LAKE

HURON

RUSSEL ISLAND

Doctor I.

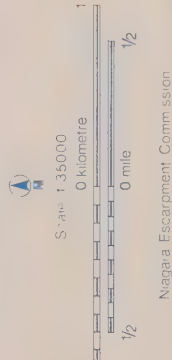
17

Devil I.

CAPE HURD CHANNEL

# ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

- R.B.G. Boundary .....
- | FEATURE | GARDENS           |
|---------|-------------------|
| 1       | Trial Garden      |
| 2       | Rose Garden       |
| 3       | Spring Garden     |
| 4       | Rock Garden       |
| 5       | Arboretum         |
| 6       | Children's Garden |



## Cootes Paradise Area:

# Gardens, Canals — And Even a Castle

Hamilton is a steel town.

Nobody can deny that.

But it's also a town that, during the Great Depression of the Thirties, had the good sense to give men jobs transforming an ugly abandoned gravel pit into a rock garden that has since become world famous. The garden now forms the nucleus of the regional municipalities of Hamilton-Wentworth and Halton's 800 hectare (2,000 acre) Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) of which the Niagara Escarpment is a dramatic and vital part.

And, if the gardens themselves weren't enough to distinguish the Hamilton Harbour area as unique among industrial centres in North America, the City of Hamilton also had the foresight to nurture and promote its own 150-year-old castle — Dundurn — to attract thousands of visitors each year.

If you haven't already discovered Dundurn and the RBG's spacious tract of land on the slopes of the Escarpment, **Cuesta** offers the following as a start for experiencing the diversity that is the essence of the municipalities of Hamilton, Burlington, Flamborough and Dundas.

### Royal Botanical Gardens

The logical place to start off is at the Royal Botanical Gardens' Headquarters (RBG Centre) located at 680 Plains Road West (Highway No. 2) in Burlington. The RBG Centre is easily reached from the Queen Elizabeth Way and Highways 2, 6 and 403, and from this central location the various gardens and extensive natural areas are readily accessible.

Buses from Hamilton to Toronto via Burlington provide hourly service to the various Feature Gardens and RBG Centre. All gardens are open during daylight hours. There is no charge for parking or admission, although visitor donations are appreciated.

At the RBG Centre one discovers that the Royal Botanical Gardens is more than just a collection of pretty flowers.

The RBG combines the functions of a university, a museum and an experimental station with the recrea-

tional aspects of extensive and inventive horticultural displays — and an invitation to explore vast natural areas.

Originally conceived in the 1920's as a project to beautify the city's billboard-cluttered approaches, the RBG developed from the park system of the City of Hamilton under the enlightened leadership of city parks director Thomas Baker McQuesten.

During the Depression, hundreds of unemployed men found regular work transforming Kerr's Gravel Pits into the masterpiece of trees, rocks, flowers and water — known as the Rock Garden.

It was McQuesten's dream to create a botanical garden to rival England's renowned Kew Gardens.

The dream became a reality in 1941 when a provincial act, *The Royal Botanical Gardens Act*, established the Royal Botanical Gardens as an independent institution with scientific and educational objectives.

### Season Highlights

Because a botanical garden by definition deals with growing things, the seasonal sequence of specific floral displays and activities form a nucleus around which other aspects of the RBG operate.

Check the following calendar for favourite floral displays or nature hikes and make your visit to the RBG a family activity designed to interpret the world of plants.

PHOTOS FOR THIS ARTICLE BY P. SOPER



<b>March</b> .....	<b>Maple Syrup Exhibit</b> <b>Rock Chapel Sanctuary</b>
<b>May 1-31</b> .....	<b>Wild Flowers</b> <b>Nature Trails</b>
<b>May 1-25</b> .....	<b>Spring Bulbs</b> <b>Rock Garden</b>
<b>May 5-31</b> .....	<b>Flowering Trees</b> <b>Arboretum and other Gardens</b>
<b>May 15-31</b> .....	<b>Lilacs at the Arboretum</b>
<b>June 5-15</b> .....	<b>Iris — Spring Garden</b>
<b>June 5-20</b> .....	<b>Peonies — Spring Garden</b>
<b>May-October</b> .....	<b>Herbaceous Perennials</b> <b>Spring Garden</b>
<b>June 15-October</b> .....	<b>Roses</b> <b>Centennial Rose Garden</b> <b>Hendrie Park</b>
<b>July-September</b> .....	<b>Annuals</b> <b>Demonstration Garden</b> <b>Hendrie Park</b>
<b>July-October</b> .....	<b>Summer Display</b> <b>Rock Garden</b>
<b>August 1-31</b> .....	<b>Herb Garden and Gladioli</b> <b>Children's Garden</b>
<b>October</b> .....	<b>Autumn Colour</b> <b>Cootes Paradise</b> <b>Rock Chapel Sanctuary</b> <b>Hendrie Valley and Arboretum</b>

## Horticultural Courses and the Outreach Program

Never again need one despair over which plant to put in which location; a spectacular all-season garden display is ensured and a green thumb practically guaranteed for those who take advantage of horticultural courses at the RBG Centre or courses offered by the Outreach Program which operates in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

RBG Outreach, in operation since 1974, makes the resources of the Royal Botanical Gardens available to groups and municipalities outside the Toronto-Hamilton centred region.

RBG's staff provides guest speakers for lectures, demonstrations and workshops to various institutions, clubs and service groups throughout the province.

These services and more are available by contacting:

*The Outreach Department,  
Royal Botanical Gardens,  
P.O. Box 399,  
Hamilton, Ontario,  
L8N 3H8.*

## Feature Gardens

There are six feature gardens displaying various aspects of horticulture: the ever popular and formal *Rock Garden*; the colourful *Spring Garden* preening in splendour after winter; the *Rose Garden*, the RBG's tribute to Canada's Centenary; the *Demonstration /or Trial Garden* diligently works out the quirks in new floral stock; the *Children's Garden* nurtures both plants and children, producing hordes of tiny green thumbs along with green shoots; and finally the *Arboretum*, a museum of woody plants (trees, etc.), the giants of the plant world.

## Hendrie Park

The *Rose Garden*, the main horticultural feature at Hendrie Park, was opened in 1967 as a Centennial Project and features modern garden roses, old-fashioned roses and a collection of climbing and espalier plants — a total display of over 5,000 roses.

The *Tea House* located in the *Turner Pavilion* completes the English country garden effect.

The *Rose Garden* is located directly across from the RBG Centre on Plains Road and is accessible by underpass.

Located near the *Rose Garden*, the *Demonstration Garden* features new annuals, demonstration displays and special projects.

The *Hendrie Gates*, fashioned in wrought iron by a master craftsman, stand in a sylvan setting as a tribute to the Hendrie family who provided most of the land for Hendrie Park. Located adjacent to the *Rose Garden*, *Hendrie Park* provides access to *Hendrie Valley* and several nature trails. *Cherry Hill Gate*, located beside the parking area for the *Rose Garden*, provides another point of access to these trails which cut through hardwoods and skirt marsh and ponds to continue to the broad flats of *Hendrie Valley*.

## Spring Garden

Located on the south side of Plains Road at Spring Garden Road, the gardens feature one of North America's major iris gardens — complemented by peonies and a broad range of herbaceous perennials. Good ideas abound on what to plant in the home garden.

## Rock Garden

Located north of York Boulevard, directly opposite the Tourist Information Centre, the *Rock Garden* is a mecca for photographers and those who simply wish to enjoy the delightful panorama.

This internationally famed garden transformed from abandoned gravel pits boasts waterfalls, ponds and streams set in a horticultural back-drop of exceptional beauty and design.

The initial impression of oriental elegance and subtlety can best be savoured from the *Tea House*, a popular spot for family outings.

## Children's Garden

The *Children's Garden* was developed in 1947 and was the first educational project of the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Dedicated as the Horticultural Education Centre in 1971, the art of gardening is taught and practised by children, family groups and the handicapped. Special features include: the herb garden, a demonstration fruit plot and a generous display of gladioli in August.

## Arboretum

In 1946, a 162-hectare property bordering the north shore of Cootes Paradise Marsh was designated as an *Arboretum*.

Interesting displays to visit are: the *Hedge Demonstration Garden* shaped in the traditional pattern of an Elizabethan hedgerow maze; and the *Lilac Dell*, better known as the *Katie Osborne Lilac Garden* with its world renowned collection of lilacs.



*Kerr's Gravel Pits, circa 1932, were transformed into the famous Rock Gardens during the Thirties.*

Special demonstration gardens exhibit various ground covers, numerous avenues of trees selected for specific characteristics of size and form and a highly ornamental collection of magnolias and rhododendrons combine to make the *Arboretum* a required stop.

#### **Nature Centre and Nature Trails**

The *Nature Centre* is located at the entrance to the *Arboretum* on old Guelph Road and provides interpretative exhibits which introduce the adjacent trail system. Trail guides and maps are available. Open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The extensive nature trail system serves to introduce the public, family groups as well as organized groups and school classes to a wide variety of natural habitats and topography. At the same time, a deliberate attempt has been made to ensure that neither the natural vegetation nor wildlife sustains any substantial disturbance.

Three-quarters of the 800 hectares (2,000 acres) which comprise the RBG remain in a natural state. Visitors are encouraged to take advantage of the more than 48 kilometres (30 miles) of improved trails which meander through woodland, marsh, meadow and Escarpment slopes.

#### **Rock Chapel Sanctuary**

In his submission to the Proposed Niagara Escarpment Plan Hearings in Ancaster on May 14, 1980, Dr.

Leslie Laking, director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, noted:

*"Since 1942 the Royal Botanical Gardens has been custodian of a 4 kilometre section of the Niagara Escarpment in the vicinity of Rock Chapel. Before the broad conservation movement gained momentum in Ontario in the late 1940's and early 1950's, Royal Botanical Gardens was already developing programs for its Escarpment lands to introduce to the public the natural features available there by interpreting the geological strata evident on the Escarpment face, the plant and animal life of this unique habitat, including the process of making maple products."*

The Niagara Escarpment Commission applauds the dedication of the Royal Botanical Gardens and recognizes a job well done.

Overlooking the Dundas Valley, *Rock Chapel Sanctuary* offers exceptional opportunities for the amateur geologist, hiker and nature enthusiast. This section of the Niagara Escarpment contains an excellent Geology Exhibit, a late winter Maple Syrup Exhibit and part of the Bruce Trail.

#### **Areas of Special Interest**

Cootes Paradise, Desjardins Canal and Dundurn Castle, while not part of the Royal Botanical Gardens, are adjacent to the RBG and are of interest to the general public, the naturalist and the historian. Read on!



*The world renowned Rock Gardens, nucleus of the RBG's feature gardens.*



*A familiar sight from Highways, 403, 2 and 6 for residents of the Hamilton area — the disused pilings of the Desjardins Canal crossing Cootes Paradise.*

### **Cootes Paradise**

The very name conjures up the oddest possibilities but the actual origin is somewhat less exotic than one might think. It turns out it was named after a man, not a species of waterfowl, the coot!

*Cootes Paradise*, a marshy area located at the base of the Niagara Escarpment, was the original name for the town of Dundas and persisted in official use as late as 1826. The name derives from a Captain Coote, a keen sportsman with a penchant for duck hunting, who pursued his hobby in this marshy area.

Captain Coote would still approve of the abundant wildlife in Cootes Paradise; but he definitely would not be permitted to pursue his favourite sport — the marsh is currently a wildlife sanctuary.

Those who wish to observe the birdlife are encouraged to follow the shorelines of Cootes Paradise which cross adjacent wooded ravinelands. North Shore trails are accessible from the *Arboretum* on *Captain Cootes Trail* and South Shore trails from the *Children's Garden* and McMaster University campus.

A Bruce Trail link connects the Escarpment face at Rock Chapel with North Shore trails in Cootes Paradise Sanctuary.

**Desjardins Canal**

Desjardins Canal bisects Cootes Paradise at the base of the Niagara Escarpment; it was dredged and its pilings driven during the mid-1800's.

Pleasure steamers and 21-metre long Durham boats (boats which were either sailed or poled) used the canal to travel from Dundas to Hamilton Harbour, or as it was then called Burlington Bay.

*The canal was the work of an enterprising settler from France, Pierre Desjardins, who formed a company in 1826 to construct a canal through the marsh between Burlington Heights and Dundas.*

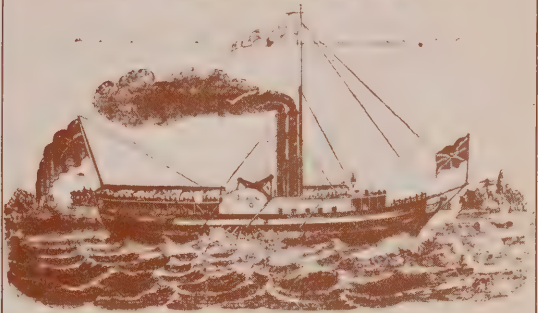
Desjardins died before the canal was ready to accommodate commercial shipping. His work was continued by his brother-in-law, Alexis Begue. On August 16, 1837, the Desjardins Canal was officially opened and became instrumental in the sustained growth of the Town of Dundas.

The Desjardins Canal Company located its offices on the Main Street in the Town of Dundas which continued to flourish in the growing shadow of the larger City of Hamilton.

*The Great Western Railroad Company, one of Sir Allan Napier MacNab's great achievements for Hamilton, struck a death blow to the canal as freight by rail to Hamilton and Toronto surpassed water as a major mode of transportation.*

The disused pilings are still visible from the Niagara Escarpment and a plaque has been erected in Dundas to recognize the importance of the Desjardins Canal to the growth of that town.

# NOTICE.



The inhabitants of Dundas take this method of informing the public and those in particular who are desirous of witnessing a great and important public work brought into operation, that they will have an opportunity of gratifying themselves on Wednesday the 16th instant, when

SEVERAL STEAMERS WILL ENTER THE BASIN OF THE

## DESJARDINS CANAL.

And from thence start on a pleasure trip to Burlington Bay and back, accompanied with the Ancaster Band.

Announcement of the opening of the Desjardins Canal, 1837.



A propeller driven ship in the Desjardins Canal, circa 1860.



Published by the Proprietor of the "Morning Banner."

HAMILTON, C.W.

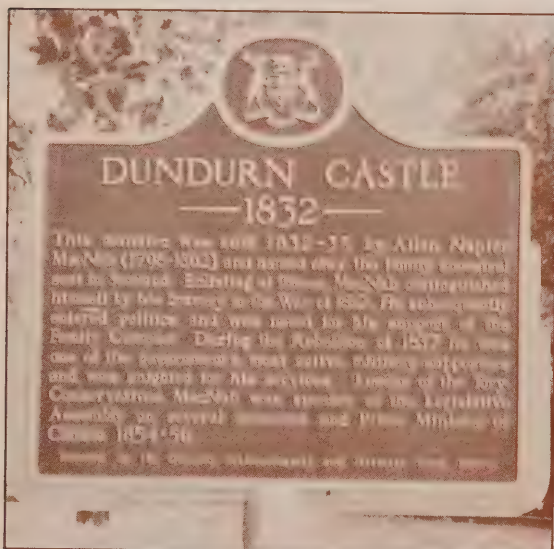
The Great Western spur line from Hamilton to Toronto, completed in 1855, had been hailed as a great advance in transportation facilities between the two cities.

On Friday, March 13, 1857, the locomotive "Oxford" made three scheduled westbound stops from Toronto during the 64-kilometre journey — Oakville, Wellington Square (Burlington) and Waterdown picking up additional passengers.

One and a half kilometres from the Hamilton terminus the

train had to cross a wooden trestle swing bridge which spanned an 18 metre (60 foot) gap across the Desjardins Canal.

As the locomotive crossed the bridge, the weight of the engine caused the bridge to sway and collapse. The train plunged 12 metres (40 feet) into the frozen Desjardins Canal — killing 59 of the estimated 120 passengers. Among the dead were some of Hamilton's most prominent citizens.



## Dundurn Castle

Constructed in 1835, Dundurn Castle is situated in a 13-hectare (32-acre) park on Burlington Heights operated by the Hamilton Parks Board and offers visitors over 34 exquisitely restored rooms to explore.

This elegant mansion once provided a suitable residence for Sir Allan Napier MacNab, third prime minister of the United Province of Canada from 1854-1856.

MacNab was one of Hamilton's most powerful and influential men during a vibrant and colourful period of Canadian history.

MacNab was a larger than life figure — his many achievements were accomplished with style and flair.

As a boy of 14, he won immense public approval for his heroic actions during the War of 1812. He saw action during the battles of Sackets Harbour, Fort Niagara and Black Rock.

Later, as a Colonel of the Gore Regiment, he turned his military prowess against William Lyon MacKenzie, leader of the Rebellion of 1837.

For his part in quelling this insurrection against the Crown, MacNab was knighted by Queen Victoria.



*Sir Allan Napier MacNab constructed Dundurn Castle around the original homestead of Richard Beasley (1761-1842). Beasley, one of Hamilton's first settlers and traders, had great influence on the development of the area. Elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1796 as a member for Durham, York, and the First Riding of Lincoln and later as Speaker of the Assembly, Beasley also served as Justice of Peace and was a Colonel in the militia during the War of 1812. Dundurn Castle is located in Dundurn Park on York Boulevard and is accessible from Highway 403 via the York Boulevard turn-off.*

With peace restored and a knighthood to his credit, MacNab turned his attention to other pressing matters — building railways, developing land, banking and practising law.

There can be no doubt that MacNab was bold and decisive. His former home reflects his character and makes a definitive statement on the life and times of the Laird of Dundurn.

*The splendid blue and beige Minton tiled floor in the grand entrance hall, the Cranberry glass and crystal chandelier in the formal rose-coloured drawing-room and the blue and gold Royal Doulton sink in the ablution room combine in an impressive and prestigious display.*

Dundurn has not always been a masterpiece of restoration: its fate was somewhat uncertain during a period from 1900-1964.

Dundurn had been an asylum for the deaf and blind (1864-68) and a museum before the City of Hamilton, in conjunction with the federal and provincial governments, began an imaginative Centennial Project — the \$600,000 restoration of Dundurn Castle.

*The restoration committee authentically decorated and furnished Dundurn in the style of the Victorian Era using, whenever possible, objects that actually belonged to the MacNab family. Authentic restoration was made possible by the discovery of the personal and detailed diary of Sir Allan Napier MacNab's daughter, Sophia.*

The library, draped in the MacNab tartan, remains the most personal room in the castle. From this room Hamilton's first lawyer conducted his extensive business interests and probably lingered over an after-dinner cigar.

Although not authenticated, one item, a speaker's chair, located in the library, probably belonged to MacNab; it was the custom to present the Speaker of the House with his chair upon retirement.

Tours conducted by guides in authentic 19th century costumes bring life and vitality back to the old castle. Costumed maids demonstrate 19th century

domestic arts and visitors are offered samples of baked goods from the castle kitchen.

A special program is operated in conjunction with the Hamilton Board of Education as part of the school curriculum to instruct Grade 8 students in the lifestyles of the Victorian Era.

An interesting place to visit and to take a step back to a more gracious time, the Castle is open seven days a week year-round except Christmas and New Year's Day. From mid-June to Labour Day, the Castle is open daily 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. During the rest of the year Dundurn is open from 1-4 p.m.

Group tours for 25 adults or more can be arranged for other than public hours. Children must be accompanied by adults. Telephone: (416) 522-5313; Admission: \$2.00 per adult, 50 cents per child. ■



*Sir Allan Napier MacNab (1798-1862).*

## 'Slow Pokes':

# Hikers Enjoy Escarpment At Their Leisurely Pace

If you call Vic Franklin of Burford a "slow poke" he won't mind.

Nor will Elsie Murphy of Port Dover.

Nor thirty of their fellow enthusiasts from Oakville to Niagara Falls, New York.

They're all members of the *Slow Poke Hikers* who began walking the Bruce Trail at their own leisurely pace in 1978. The Slow Pokes range in age from 40 to 70.

Officially, as a group, they have covered about 200 kilometres of the 692-kilometre trail — and this sum-

mer they moseyed along the 40-kilometre Iroquoia section of the trail from Kelso to Grimsby.

The aim of the group is to walk the trail from end-to-end, "kinda", says Slow Poke leader Vic Franklin, 68.

Vic, a retired stationary engineer, got the walking bug back in 1976 when his daughter expressed an interest in hiking the trail and he figured he might as well get the whole family involved.

But, he admits, he had trouble keeping up with the organized hikers. "They were too fast for my old legs and my old ticker."

So, he placed an ad in the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club publication inviting slow pokes like himself to join him every Wednesday morning during the good weather months.

Elsie Murphy was the first to call. She had been a member of the Bruce Trail Association for a number of years, but she had not hiked much since her husband died.

Today, Elsie is the biggest booster of the Slow Pokes.

"I'm also the one who makes sure that Vic is limited to only three jokes an outing," she quips.

Vic claims, however, that "Elsie's memory is short — and after ten minutes, I can always get away with telling another one."

The Slow Pokes restrict themselves to about eight kilometres of hiking a day. That gives them plenty of time to see everything there is to see along the way and stop for mid-morning coffee and a good sociable lunch.

In 1980, the Slow Pokes, counting all the repeat hikes and sidetrips, hiked a total of 300 kilometres on 41 outings.

Four Slow Pokes earned their end-to-end Iroquoia chevrons: Joyce Zabell, Oakville; Gayle Bayliss, Burlington; Elsie Whipps, Ancaster; and Bob Inglis, Waterford.

As for the future, Vic says: "When the sun shines on both sides of the fence and the grass and flowers begin to grow, and the birds return in the spring, I hope to be hiking again, health, wealth and weather permitting."



The leader of the Slow Pokes, Vic Franklin, started his group because he had trouble keeping up with younger hikers who always seemed to be hurrying. Vic is 68.

## 'Hiking Grandmother':

# She Doesn't Walk for Records But She Keeps Chalking 'Em Up

Ida Sainsbury, Canada's "hiking grandmother", took to back-packing as a Centennial Project on January 1, 1967 — and admits to being "hooked" ever since.

Ida is the only woman who hiked the Bruce Trail from beginning to end not once, not twice, but three times — and, in fact, has climbed *all* the highest mountain peaks east of the Mississippi River in the U.S., which include 46 peaks in New Hampshire, 11 in Maine, five in Vermont, 40 in South Appalachia (North Carolina and Tennessee) and 46 in the Adirondacks of New York.

Her overseas walks include a glacier hike over Norway's highest peak, the 2,469-metre Galhoppiggen in 1975, a 21½ hour non-stop trek across the Yorkshire Moors in 1976 and a recent holiday stroll up Diamond Head in Hawaii.

Ida won't say how old she is — "just tell them I've got blue eyes and a few grey hairs" — but those who have seen her in action say she's a marathon hiker with the stamina and stride of a much younger woman.

"But," she insists, "you don't walk for records, you walk for the pleasure of it."

It's obvious that Ida Sainsbury takes her pleasure seriously.

*"I remember that first outing," she said, "we joined a group of Bruce Trailers and hiked from the Forks of the Credit to No. 5 Sideroad in the Caledon Hills — and back — a total of 16 miles. But we loved it. We couldn't get over that you could actually walk on a marked trail without any worry of getting lost or hung up. It was wonderful."*

It was also then and there that Ida decided she was going to walk the entire 692-kilometre Trail from Queenston to Tobermory — "on weekends and any moments I could."

With a fellow Bruce Trailer, Marjorie Meek of Toronto, whom Ida met during her first Centennial Project hike, she completed her first beginning-to-end Trail hike in 1968.

Ida completed the Trail one week before Marjorie — thereby becoming the first woman to hike the entire trail.



PHOTO: COURTESY F. SAINSBURY

*Ida Sainsbury, Canada's "hiking grandmother" has become an almost legendary figure on the Bruce Trail. She is the only woman to hike the entire length of the Trail three times. She has also hiked in the U.S., England and Norway. Her ambition: "Just keep on hiking."*

(Continued on page 44)

# BATTLE OF STONEY CREEK

June 5 and 6, 1813

## PRESENT DAY LAND USE:

Provincial Road..... 8 — 403 —	Regional Municipality.....
Regional and Local Road.....	Railway.....
Area Municipality.....	Base Data Obtained from N.T.S. 1979.

## SOURCES:

Drawing of "Nelson" by C. H. J. Snider, Courtesy of Metropolitan Toronto Library Board.

Drawing of Stoney Creek Battle Site by P. A. Dross from the "Wentworth County Illustrated," published by Page and Smith, Toronto 1875. Reproduced by Dundas Valley School of Art 1971.

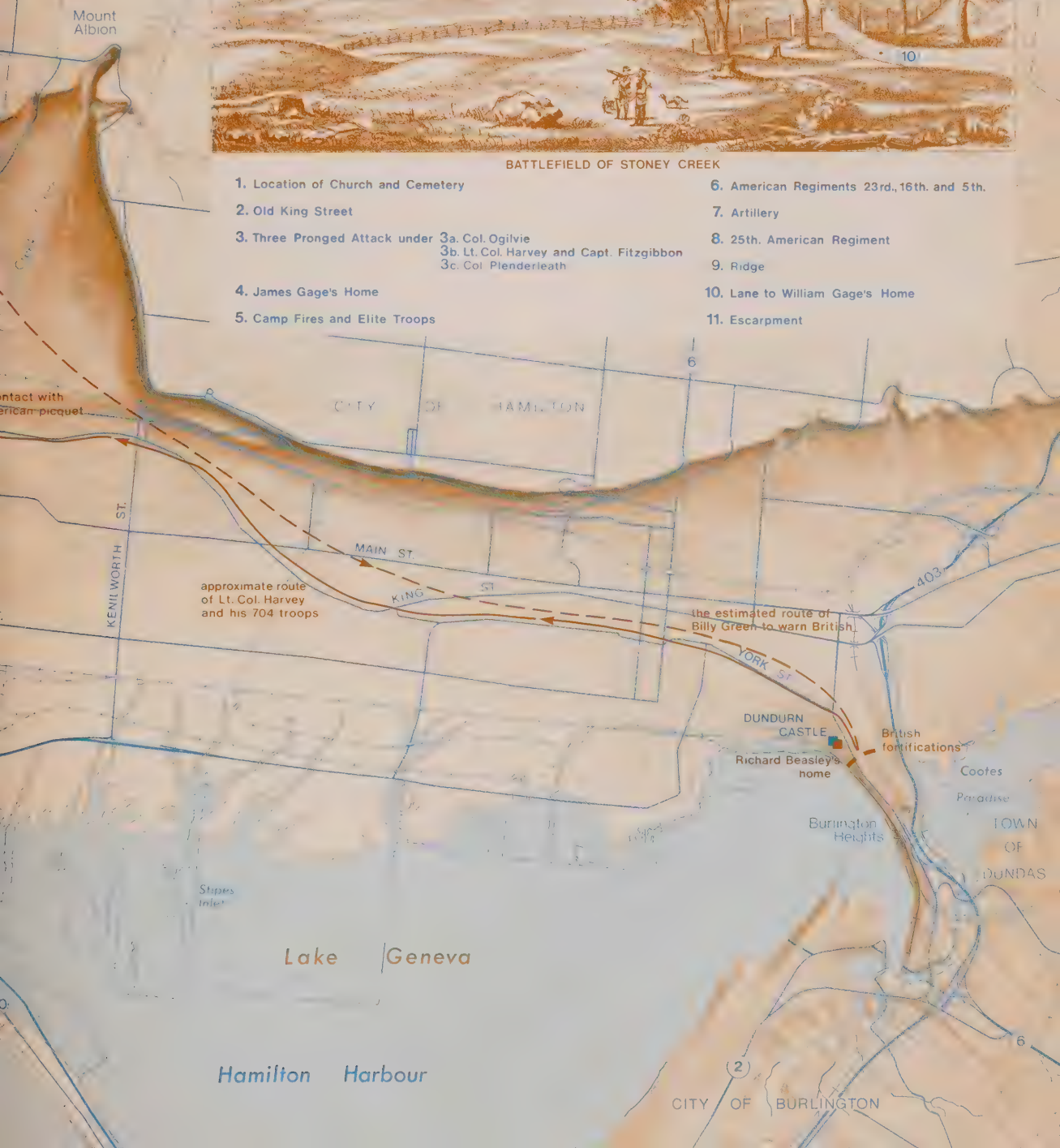
Old shoreline estimated from Barton, County of Wentworth by R. C. Hitt pages 11 and 18 in "Wentworth County Illustrated" and Survey Maps, Township No. 7 and 8 in the District of Niagara by Augustus Jones October 1791.





BATTLEFIELD OF STONEY CREEK

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Location of Church and Cemetery       | 6. American Regiments 23rd., 16th. and 5th. |
| 2. Old King Street                       | 7. Artillery                                |
| 3. Three Pronged Attack under            | 8. 25th. American Regiment                  |
| 3a. Col. Ogilvie                         | 9. Ridge                                    |
| 3b. Lt. Col. Harvey and Capt. Fitzgibbon | 10. Lane to William Gage's Home             |
| 3c. Col. Plenderleath                    | 11. Escarpment                              |
| 4. James Gage's Home                     |   |
| 5. Camp Fires and Elite Troops           |   |



## Battle of Stoney Creek Alters Course of History

One hundred and sixty-eight years ago a battle was fought at the base of the Niagara Escarpment — just east of Hamilton in Stoney Creek — that repelled an estimated invading force of 2,000 Americans and helped forge a nation.

Although the War of 1812 is often regarded as a hiatus in the normally cordial relationship between two good neighbours, it was a war of definite significance.

In his most recent book "The Invasion of Canada 1812-1813", Pierre Berton notes:

*"Out of it, shaped by an emerging nationalism and tempered by rebellion, grew that special form of state paternalism that makes the Canadian way of life significantly different from the more individualistic American way."*

The conflict that was soon to flame the entire Niagara Peninsula and most of Upper Canada had its origins in 1793 with the British involvement in the Napoleonic Wars.

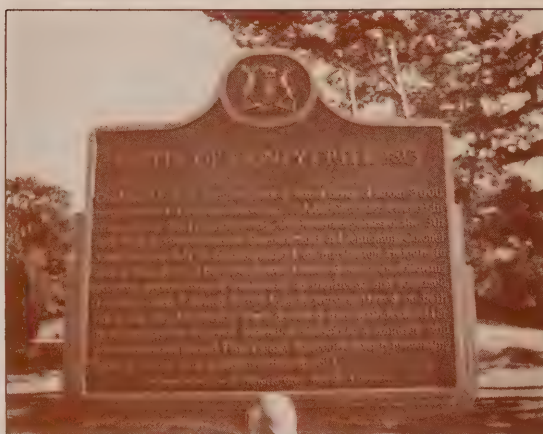
The British who were fighting for survival imposed a blockade on continental Europe and dealt severely with any neutral power whose trade routes happened to cross the Atlantic.

By June, 1807, Britain and the United States were brought to the brink of war as a result of British Orders-in-Council which effectively closed Napoleon's Europe to neutral commerce.

The continued British policy of searching American vessels bound for French ports and impressing U.S. crewmen into British service became a major cause of conflict.

An encounter between *H.M.S. Leopard* and the United States frigate *Chesapeake* provided the impetus for a declaration of war in June, 1812. Other factors also influenced the American decision:

- Americans wanted to expand westward beyond Ohio. The region was still solidly the domain of the native peoples, British and French traders and trappers.
- An estimated three-fifths of the population of the Niagara Peninsula and Upper Canada were colonists from the United States.
- The American economy was in a slump.



— American war hawks felt victory in Canada would be easy.

But the acquisition of Canada was to prove more than "a mere matter of marching", as Thomas Jefferson had optimistically predicted.

Initially, however, the well planned three-pronged American invasion of Canada did enjoy marked success.

According to historian Charles M. Johnston, co-author of *A Battle for the Heartland, Stoney Creek, June 6, 1813*, the following was the overall martial strategy for the invasion:

*"In the west, General William Henry Harrison planned an advance from Michigan to link up in the centre with General Henry Dearborn's proposed attack on the Niagara Peninsula, the objectives in both cases being York (Toronto), the provincial capital, and Kingston, the bastion at the other end of Lake Ontario. To the eastward, meanwhile, plans were drawn up for an American thrust at Montreal by way of Lake Champlain."*

By the late spring of 1813, the Americans had obtained every prerequisite for victory in Canada: the Parliament building at York, the capital, had been burned; Kingston remained the nearest defensible

garrison; American naval superiority on the Lakes had been achieved under the command of Commodore Isaac Chauncey; and by May 31, 1813, General Henry Dearborn's offensive in the Niagara Peninsula had driven the British, under the command of Brigadier-General John Vincent, from their garrisons at Forts George, Erie and Chippawa to a windy perch on Burlington Heights, current site of Dundurn Castle, Hamilton.

The heartland of Canada lay open as the relentless American advance halted at the village of Stoney Creek to await supply ships.

Here, within the shadow of the Niagara Escarpment, the battle which was to determine the course of Canadian history took place.

*It was neither the longest, nor the largest battle of the War of 1812. In fact, it lasted about an hour, yet, it served to turn the tide of the American invasion.*

Under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel John Harvey, a surprise attack of 704 British soldiers and militia repelled an invading force of approximately 2,000 American troops, under the command of Brigadier-Generals John Chandler and William Henry Winder.

This brief but desperate British offensive heralded an American retreat from Stoney Creek southeast to Grimsby (the first stage in the long trek back to Fort Niagara).

It was a retreat that American Generals Chandler and Winder had no reason to anticipate; on the night of June 5, 1813, their forces held a most favourable position. The advancing American troops had commandeered the home of James Gage, a prosperous local farmer and owner of the only supply store west of Niagara, and were busily appropriating badly needed supplies.

An eyewitness, young Peter Van Wagner, notes that "the Yankees helped themselves to the Gage's produce and stock and used his fences for firewood."

According to several historians, the American position, (currently the site of Battlefield House), was also advantageous from a military standpoint; their right flank was protected by a swamp which extended all the way to the lakeshore; their left by the limestone Escarpment face.

As Chandler's troops prepared to bed down on the night of June 5, 1813, word was passed around the campfires "Victory tomorrow" . . . for tomorrow they would engage the enemy on Burlington Heights.

**Cuesta** has researched three prominent accounts of the Battle of Stoney Creek written respectively by Brigadier-General E.A. Cruikshank, E.B. Biggar, and Charles M. Johnston, and also enlisted the assistance of Burlington historian, Frank Jones.

*The following account of the battle is a result of that research.*

The Americans were distributed among seven main regiments: the 9th, 23rd, 25th, 5th, 13th, 14th and 16th, with the 2nd Light Dragoons under the command of Colonel James Burns stationed to the rear.

Brigadier-General Chandler had earlier deployed 500 men of the 13th and 14th American Regiments, under the command of Colonel John Chrystie, to the lakeshore near the Stoney Creek outlet to await the arrival of Commodore Chauncey's supply ships which had been delayed due to storms on Lake Ontario.



The 25th Regiment and a body of elite troops were allowed to kindle cooking fires by a lane that led to William Gage's house some distance from the main position on the ridge.

The artillery units posted nine field guns on the ridge which dominated the forerunner of present-day King Street (Highway 8). The ridge was later graded during the construction of King Street.

Initially, the artillery position was flanked to the left by the 5th and the 16th Regiments and, farther from the guns, the 23rd Regiment. Positioned to the rear was the smaller 9th — a reinforcing regiment. About 1.5 kilometres to the rear of the artillery, the 2nd Light Dragoons were posted.

Brigadier-General Chandler was headquartered in a tent to the right of the artillery while Brigadier-General Winder found more comfortable accommodation in the home of James and Mary Gage.

A strong main American advance picquet was posted at a Methodist church less than a kilometre away where some local inhabitants were imprisoned.

Then, shortly after midnight, a decision was reached to re-organize the regimental order. The American Generals Chandler and Winder did not dismiss the possibility of an attack by the British forces.

In the early hours of June 6, the 25th Regiment was ordered back from the cooking fires to a position on the right flank of the artillery, thereby placing the elite troops, who were not redeployed, in an exposed position by the fires.



Carefully restored to represent a pioneer home circa 1812-1840, Battlefield House, operated since 1962 by the Niagara Parks Commission, contains some of Mary and James Gage's original furnishings and offers many interesting opportunities to discover what life was once like in the Niagara Peninsula.

The wounded of both sides were taken to the Gage Home after the Battle of Stoney Creek where they were tended by Mary Gage and her family.

The Gage House, riddled with musket shot, weathered the historic battle to become "Battlefield House": a monument to the successful defence of the Niagara Peninsula.

Open all year: Monday through Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.; July and August 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Subject to change. Group tours by appointment.

For further information contact Mrs. Anne Boyer, Curator, Battlefield House, 77 King Street West, Stoney Creek, Ontario, Telephone (416) 662-8458.

Concurrently, a shift was implemented to the left flank; the 23rd was wheeled to flank the guns at an oblique angle; slightly to the rear and to their left, their sister regiments, the 16th and the 5th were turned to support the 23rd.

The soldiers were given order to "ground arms" and sleep in regimental order.

So deployed, Chandler's troops had every reason to believe that victory was imminent. The British situation was grim.

Although, according to one historian, Burlington Heights afforded admirable possibilities for a resourceful defender standing as it does "a sentinel in the middle of the valley gashed in the long escarpment that crosses the province"; it was a defensible if not enviable position.

The British camp was defended by earthworks, protected by trees piled on one another, with their branches pointing outward forming an abatis. Traces of these earthworks are evident today at the historic Hamilton cemetery.

There were two obvious options open to General

Vincent: he could continue the withdrawal until he reached Kingston; or he could make a defensive stand on the Heights.

He did neither.

On the basis of reconnaissance information obtained by Lieutenant-Colonel John Harvey of the 49th Regiment, Vincent ordered a night attack.

Harvey was given the task of organizing and leading this daring expedition.

He selected his men carefully: 220 men from the 8th Regiment commanded by Major Ogilvie and 484 men from the 49th under Major Plenderleath — a total of 704.

At 11:30 p.m. the night of June 5, 1813, the attacking column, supported by a solitary fieldgun, set out for Stoney Creek.

The men marched quickly and quietly with little gear except their firelock and ammunition. Their guns were not loaded for fear an "accidental discharge" would alert the now sleeping enemy.

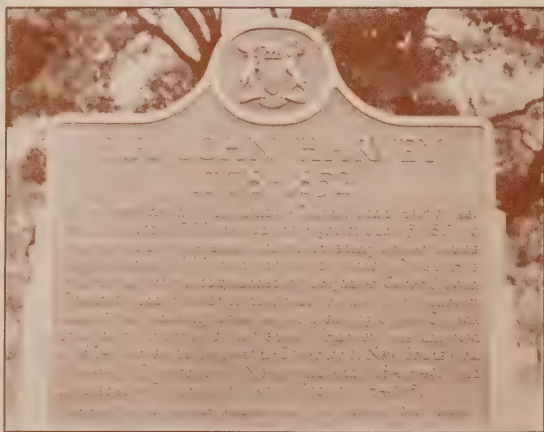
At the head of the column, wielding a sword given to him by Harvey, strode nineteen-year-old Billy Green, the Scout, a native of Stoney Creek.

Billy knew every inch of the trail and encouraged the regulars to hurry over wet and treacherous ground to arrive at Stoney Creek under the cover of darkness and as soon as possible.

One British regular was heard to mutter: "Soon enough to be killed."

On arriving at the road leading down to Burlington Beach and the old lake road, Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey dispatched Lieutenant Land of the 3rd Gore Militia and a small detachment of men to march north to a point where they could observe the American's 13th and 14th Regiments. Concurrently, Captain Elijah Secord was sent south to the Escarpment brow to observe enemy troop movements from that vantage point.

The British column encountered an outpost piquet at the Big Creek, approximately three kilometres west



Plaque erected near Dundurn Castle on Burlington Heights by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board commemorating the night march of Lieutenant-Colonel John Harvey to engage invading American troops commanded by Brigadier-Generals John Chandler and William Henry Winder at the Battle of Stoney Creek, June 6, 1813.

of Old Stoney Creek. The lone American soldier surrendered himself and relinquished a British prisoner.

*The attack force arrived in Stoney Creek about 3 a.m. and followed a ravine parallel to the road which brought them out near the enemy encampment.*

An eyewitness report states that "The first American sentry was despatched by a bayonet thrust through the chest which pinned him so tight to the tree the musket had to be wrenched free. The next morning the sentry was found standing against the tree as if alive."

The main American guard which was posted at the Methodist church under the command of Captain Van Vechten was taken completely by surprise and surrendered without resistance.

Although several other sentries were approached and bayoneted (one by Billy Green), one sentry succeeded in raising the alarm and soon the whole American camp was wheeling with columns of startled men.

The centre of the attacking force was led up the road (King Street) by Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, the left by Major Plenderleath and the right by Major Ogilvie.

British casualties were heavy as the regulars reached the enemy's line of campfires. Given the order "Fix Flint", their silhouetted forms made a perfect target for American muskets of the 25th Regiment.

Officers and men on both sides shouted to make themselves heard over the din of battle or awaited orders that never came.

American General Chandler attempted to maintain discipline by mounting his horse and ordering the 25th Regiment into further action.

The 25th responded with a barrage of musket fire which inflicted heavy casualties and caused confusion on the left British flank led by Major Plenderleath.

Pinned down under enemy fire, Plenderleath aided by Lieutenant Alexander Fraser rallied a group of 20-30 men and charged the artillery position. As they ascended the ridge, a premature discharge from the American cannon passed over their heads and before the American gunners could reload the knoll was secured by Plenderleath's men.

American General Winder was captured at the artillery post.

Captain Merritt, one of the few militia officers in attendance, notes, "Had not Major Plenderleath charged and captured the guns we should have been completely defeated."

General Chandler was captured later when he inadvertently stumbled into Plenderleath's men who were in control of the American guns.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, assisted by Lieutenant Fitzgibbon of the 49th, advanced on the American 23rd Regiment. Indecisive action by the 23rd which had received no orders caused its position to be jeopardized.

Major Ogilvie led the 8th Regiment against the 5th and 16th United States Infantry on the left of the artillery.

Harvey seized his chance when the 16th United States Infantry broke under Ogilvie's charge and advanced through the gap with the 49th.

In the chaos, a squadron of American cavalry, the 2nd Light Dragoons, commanded by Colonel James



*Battle Monument*

Burns, attempting to stop the advance by Harvey, cut and slashed through their own retreating 5th infantry lines before realizing their mistake.

Harvey, now in control of the field, decided to withdraw before dawn to conceal the actual size and relative weakness of his force.

*Less than an hour had elapsed, but in that short time the course of history had been altered. The surprise attack set the Americans on the defensive; never again would they penetrate so far on to Canadian soil.*

Harvey requested and received permission from Chandler's successor, Colonel Burns, to attend to the wounded Americans.

Ironically, the British general who is often given credit for the victory at Stoney Creek was not present during the battle.

According to Billy Green's eyewitness account: "Our General Vincent came in the rear of his army to Stoney Creek that night and somehow got lost in the bushes and in the dark. He was found in the morning, after the battle, down near Van Wagners. When Seth White and George Bradshaw found him, he had lost his hat."

*Despite the short duration of the engagement, con-*

*(Continued on page 43)*

'Shot All Our Powder Away':

## The Mystery & Legend of Billy Green, the Scout



PHOTO: COURTESY BARBARA GREEN

Billy Green, the Scout  
1794-1877

*Attend you all good countrymen, my name is Billy Green;  
And I will tell of things I did, when I was just nineteen.  
I helped defeat the Yank invader, there can be no doubt;  
But lately men forget the name of Billy Green, the Scout.*

*"Billy Green, the Scout" by Stan Rogers  
Copyright 1977; Fogarty's Cove Music Inc.  
Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

Who was Billy Green, the Scout? He is an authentic Escarpment legend and a contemporary of Laura Secord; yet few have ever heard of him.

William Green was born on February 4, 1794; the first child to be born in the Stoney Creek district of United Empire Loyalists. His father, Ensign Adam Green, had emigrated from Sussex, New Jersey, in 1793, and settled on the top of the Escarpment on what is currently known as Ridge Road, at the east corner of Highway 20.

Today, six generations later, his descendants still farm the original 38-hectare Escarpment farm and cherish the memory of Billy Green, the Scout.

On June 5, 1813, from his vantage point high on the Escarpment brow, nineteen-year-old Billy Green watched the American army setting up camp at the home of James Gage.

Billy and his brother, Levi, had been following the American forces advance from "the Forty" (Grimsby) to the Village of Stoney Creek since the early hours of Sunday morning.

Billy, a staunch British subject who did not take kindly to a foreign presence in Stoney Creek, assumed the American objective was to attack the British army encamped at Burlington Heights.

Years later, he recounted his part in the Battle of Stoney Creek to his grandson, John W. Green, who kept a written record of Billy's statement.

"When we heard them (the enemy) coming through the Village of Stoney Creek," Billy said, "we all went out on the brow of the hill to see them. Some of them espied us and fired at us. One ball struck the (fence) where Tina, my brother Levi's wife, was sitting holding Hannah, her oldest child, in her arms."

The short-supplied Americans appropriated necessities from Stoney Creek farms and created general

(Continued on page 44)

## Ontario Trees Are 'Honoured' Thanks to Albert & OFA



Albert Butwick — Modern-day  
"Johnny Appleseed"

Americans may have their Johnny Appleseed but Canada has its own Albert Butwick.

A pipefitter by profession, but a tree-lover by avocation and instinct, Albert Butwick of Millgrove, Ont., was one of the prime movers in the establishment of the Ontario Forestry Association's (OFA) *Honour Roll of Trees*.



The majestic Dundas Elm (on Park Street, near Cross Street, Dundas) has the largest crown spread of any tree in Ontario.

*The Honour Roll, started in 1967 as a Centennial Project, is a catalogue of Ontario's arboreal aristocrats, listing more than 100 of the largest reported native, introduced, rare, unusual and historic trees in the province.*

"Albert was and is the perfect man for the job," said OFA executive director Jim Coats. "He has put in an incredible amount of volunteer work in getting the program launched and keeping it going and growing."

Albert Butwick is the current Compiler of the Honour Roll.

Of the more than 100 trees listed on the OFA's Honour Roll about one third are located within the Niagara Escarpment area. "The purpose of the Honour Roll," Mr. Butwick said, "is to 'discover' where these great trees are located, focus public attention on the many benefits that trees provide to man, and to preserve these natural landmarks."

*Honour Roll candidate trees are judged on a point system based on girth, height, crown spread, age, health, rarity and historical significance.*

The Honour Roll lists 84 representatives of native species including, of course, oaks, pines, maples, elms and birch — in addition to the less common papaw, sassafras, cucumber magnolias, tulip trees and a dozen or more species of hawthorns in Ontario.

The roll also contains 31 *introduced* species — many of which have become *naturalized* as a wild or native growing species, such as weeping willows, Carolina poplars, Norway maples and the European beech.

Although Albert Butwick loves all kinds of trees, he does have his Honour Roll favourites which include: Laura Secord's *Comfort Maple* located near North Pelham and estimated to be 400 to 500 years old and the *Dundas Elm* with the largest average crown spread of any tree in Ontario at 112 feet (34.13 m).

The roll is revised yearly and anyone wishing to nominate a candidate can do so by contacting the Ontario Forestry Association at 150 Consumers Road, Willowdale, Ont., M2J 1P9.

*Currently the largest known tree in Ontario is an*

(Continued on page 42)

## Eight Men Were Sentenced To Be 'Hanged-Drawn-Quartered'

One of the most unique occurrences in the history of Ontario — without parallel in Canada except perhaps for the trial of Louis Riel — occurred in the Escarpment village of Ancaster in 1814.

In the history books, it is referred to as the Bloody Assize of 1814 — and climaxed with the hanging and beheading of eight men convicted of high treason for collaborating with and spying for the American forces during the War of 1812.

It also apparently marked the last time under British law that those convicted of high treason were sentenced under a centuries-old penalty that read as follows:

*"You are each of you to be taken to the place from which you came, and from thence you are to be drawn on hurdles to the place of execution where you must be hanged by the neck, but not until you are dead, for you must be cut down while you are alive, and your entrails taken out and burned before your faces, then your head must be cut off and your bodies divided into four quarters, and your heads and quarters to be at the King's disposal. And may God have mercy on your souls."*

Fortunately, those appointed to carry out the sentence apparently had the good sense to mitigate the sentence — somewhat, according to eye witnesses.

Here's what happened.

During the War of 1812, many Americans thought that Canadians would gladly join in the fight against the British. As the War progressed, however, the Americans realized there was no large scale support for American annexationist expectations — although there were certain definite pockets of support, particularly among American settlers who settled in Upper Canada shortly before the outbreak of hostilities. Some of these settlers in effect became a guerilla force behind the British lines.

Late in 1813, a citizen's group met at Port Dover and decided to take the offensive against a band of American guerillas and regulars marauding in the area.

Two days later, in a surprise action, the citizens with 44 Norfolk Militia men attacked the house of John Dunham near Nanticoke and took a number of prison-

ers. About a month later, a small group of disbanded Norfolk Militia marched to Chatham and attacked a force of Americans who had fortified themselves in the home of a settler named Macrae. About 40 prisoners were taken.

The prisoners were jailed in York (Toronto) and divided into captured Americans who were treated as prisoners of war and Canadian settlers who were accused of treason.

The responsibility for prosecuting those accused of treason fell to 23-year-old John Beverley Robinson who was Acting Attorney-General taking the place of the Solicitor-General for Upper Canada, D'Arcy Boulton, who was a prisoner of war in France.

Ancaster was chosen as the trial location because it had a building large enough to hold the trial (the Union Hotel) and because it was close to the British army post on Burlington Heights (York Street, Hamilton, near today's High Level Bridge) in case the Americans should launch an attack to free the prisoners.

The Union Hotel, incidentally, was being used by the British as a hospital, and it was agreed to evacuate the hospital temporarily so it might be used for the trial. It was a wooden framed structure that stood on the present site of the Ancaster News Office.

The prisoners were transferred from York to a temporary jail set up in the Union Mill, a stone grist mill on whose foundation the present Ancaster Mountain Mill now stands.

Chief Justice Thomas Scott and Justices William Drummer Power and William Campbell were appointed to conduct the trial. The foreman of the jury was James Crooks (see page 33).

And on May 23, 1814, it began.

An account in the Ancaster Historical Society's *Ancaster's Heritage* describes what happened:

*"... the Court opened ... the Commission was read, and the Court adjourned much to the disappointment of the curiosity seekers who had congregated from all directions, and had rented sleeping quarters in all vacant rooms, sheds and barns. ... Nineteen prisoners were to be tried, and others who had not yet been apprehended would be tried in absentia."*



Ancaster's Union Hotel, later renamed Henderson's Hotel, was the courtroom of the Bloody Assize of 1814. The hotel stood on the present site of the Ancaster News office, adjacent to the Post Office.

"During the adjournment, the prisoners were given a copy of their indictment, and a list of the witnesses and jurors, so that they might prepare their defence; then on June 7, 1814, Chief Justice Scott commenced the trial. . . ."

The trial concluded on June 21.

Of the 19 defendants, 14 were convicted, one pleaded guilty and four were acquitted on charges of high treason.

Another 50 who fled the country were tried and convicted in absentia. Their lands were confiscated. The proceeds were earmarked to help widows, disabled veterans, and families of those killed in the war.

Petitions and pleas for mercy poured in and consequently seven of the defendants were granted clemency with their sentences reduced to banishment or imprisonment.

On July 20, 1814, eight of the prisoners were executed.

It appears, however, that the extreme cruelty of the "hang-draw-and-quarter" sentence was, in fact, never carried out — nor was it intended to be carried out.

Chief Justice Thomas Scott, commenting on the sentence, wrote:

"In points of fact, this sentence is never exactly

executed, the Executioner invariably taking care not to cut the body down until the criminal is dead — but the sentence of the law . . . is always pronounced."

Sixteen-year-old John Ryckman, an eye witness to the hanging, wrote his reminiscences of the execution 60 years later in the *Hamilton Spectator*:

"I was born in 1798, two miles from Hamilton. . . . I saw eight men hanged the other side of Locke Street near Dundurn Castle. During the War they had given provisions to the enemy. A rude gallows had been erected with eight nooses. Four victims in each of two wagons were drawn under the gallows, the nooses adjusted, and then they drove the wagons off leaving the victims to strangle. Their contortions loosened the gallows so that a heavy brace came loose, fell and struck one of the victims on the head, killing him instantly. Later their heads were chopped off, and exhibited as traitors. The execution was conducted by Sheriff Merritt of Niagara."

Those who died that day were Isaiah Brink, Adam Chrysler, John Dunham, Noah Payne Hopkins, Dayton Lindsay, George Peacock Jr., Benjamin Simmons and Aaron Stevens.

They were buried in the Hamilton Cemetery, near Dundurn Castle. ■

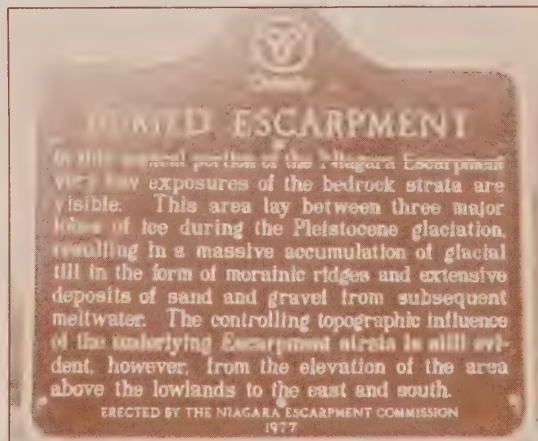
(Continued from page 9)

the glacier carried boulders, pebbles, sand, silt and clay which covered the limestone bedrock of the Niagara Escarpment.

Evidence of these glacial accumulations (till and moraine) are found in Glen Haffy — features of the buried Escarpment.

Each year, the MTRCA sponsors an annual event at Glen Haffy in July — A Day on the Escarpment. Activities include: horse drawn wagon rides; a small fry fishing derby; trout rearing and fish stocking displays; tree spade demonstrations; fly casting and tying demonstrations; and displays by the Caledon Bruce Trail Club and the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

So, all you fishermen, hikers and nature lovers — there's something for you at the Glen Haffy Forest and Wildlife Area. ■



## Thousands Visit Escarpment Home Where W.I. Constitution Drafted

On top of the Escarpment, overlooking historic Stoney Creek, is situated an attractive, but simple, white frame farm house that yearly attracts thousands of visitors from around the world — and has become a required stop for heritage and antique buffs.

The century-old 14-room house is officially called "Edgemont" but is more commonly known as the Erland Lee Home.

*It was in this house, in 1897, on the walnut dining room table still very much part of the house, that Janet Chisolm Lee penned the constitution of the Women's Institute which now boasts eight million members in 68 countries.*

The house itself, located on a homestead which has been in the Lee family since 1792, was built in 1873.

The Lees and "Edgemont" have figured prominently in the rich history of the Stoney Creek area ever since James Lee arrived with United Empire Loyalists from Maryland in 1792. Currently a museum and archive owned and operated by the Women's Institute, the Erland Lee Home was purchased from direct descendants of James Lee in 1972.

It was James Lee who built the first log cabin on the 40-hectare (100-acre) site. Many of the flowering plants and shrubs surrounding the current Lee home are thought to have been planted by this first settler. The seven-foot pine cabinet in the pioneer kitchen which dates back to the early 1800's is his authenticated workmanship.

James Lee was "felled with a flying axe blade" during the raising of the first frame house in Saltfleet Township and the Crown deed passed to his son, John Lee.

During the War of 1812, John Lee served with the 5th Lincoln Regiment and attained the rank of Colonel. While under the command of General Brock during the Battle of Queenston Heights, John Lee helped to carry the mortally wounded Brock from the battlefield.

The current Lee home, a traditional board and batten construction which boasts hand-carved maple leaf verge boards and neat green shutters, was planned and built by Abram Lee, son of John Lee and the father of Erland Lee.



*Hilde Morden, left, secretary-treasurer, and Margaret Zoeller, chairman of the Erland Lee Home, prepare for the Ontario Women's Institute Week.*

Erland Lee and his wife, Janet Chisolm Lee, were the fourth generation to occupy the Lee homestead. It was through their efforts and those of Adelaide Hoodless, a prominent advocate of home economic education, that the first Women's Institute was formed in 1897.

A permanent hostess, Mrs. Hilda Beachin, currently resides in the Erland Lee Home to receive visitors.

Annually, during the first week of June, the Erland Lee Home bustles with activity as Ontario Women's Institute Week gets under way. Hostesses in period costume conduct guided tours of the home. Demonstrations of pioneer crafts are conducted in the recently restored Drive House.

## Escarpment 'Wonder Man' Built 19th Century Empire

PHOTO: COURTESY ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO



The Honourable James Crooks  
1778-1860

An "omnivorous worker" was how one colleague described the Honourable James Crooks, the legendary Escarpment entrepreneur, industrialist and politician.

While there are still many events in his life which history has not recorded, **Cuesta** has pieced together a brief historical portrait of one of the Niagara Escarpment's earliest settlers . . . and his accomplishments were certainly extraordinary.

After considerable research, here's what we found out:

James Crooks was born April 15, 1778 in Kilmarnock, Scotland. In 1791, at the age of 13, he sailed to America to join his brother, Francis, who had established himself as a prominent merchant at Fort Niagara, New York.

According to the late Hamilton-area historian, Roy T. Woodhouse, Francis died in 1796 and the following year James Crooks teamed up with another brother, William, and moved the business (W. & J. Crooks) across the river to present day Niagara-on-the-Lake in Canada.

By 1798, James (age 20) had established a brewery, and four years later he had built *Crookston*, a large family mansion subsequently renamed *Chataqua Park* now known as the Mississauga Beach area of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

By 1807, he held the rank of Captain in the 1st Lincoln Regiment of Militia. The following year he married Jane Cummings from Chippewa and they had eight sons and four daughters born between 1809 and 1835.

By 1811, Crooks had also explored the southern portion of the Escarpment looking for a place to further expand his enterprises. He bought land in an Escarpment hollow in Flamborough Township near Dundas. Today a few ghost-like remnants of Crooks' thriving industrial empire from 1813 to the 1830's are all that remain of Crooks' Hollow (see page 37 fold-out map).

Crooks is credited with having shipped the first load of wheat and flour from Upper Canada to Montreal, a feat which in those days was both difficult and dangerous. Indeed, just two weeks before the War of

1812 was declared, James and his brother, William, had one of their ships *Lord Nelson* seized by the American brig *Oneida* (see page 3).

While still living at *Crookston* (Niagara-on-the-Lake), Crooks, then a Captain, led his troops with distinction at the Battle of Queenston Heights shortly after the seizure of his ship. Mentioned in despatches "for leading his men into action with great spirit", he was later promoted to the rank of a militia Colonel.

On May 26, 1813, *Crookston* was burned by marauding American forces. The family consequently fled along the Escarpment to the Thorold area, then to Grimsby and finally to Crooks' Hollow where Crooks built the Darnley Grist Mill.

An interesting footnote, however, is contained on page 24, vol. 27 of the *Niagara Historical Society Transactions*. It states that a letter written by the Hon. William Dickson from Albany, New York, August 13, 1813 gives a "list of non-combatants (including himself) who were made prisoners (by the American forces) in spite of the promise given. . . describing the journey of 300 miles in 57 days." James Crooks is listed as one of the prisoners, however, it appears from our research that his incarceration could not have lasted more than a couple of months.

The following year (1814) Crooks was named foreman of the jury at Ancaster's Bloody Assize (see page 30).

Over the next fifteen years, Crooks built an industrial empire which included a grist mill, distillery, linseed oil mill, sawmill, oatmeal mill, a cooperage, a general store, an inn, a card clothing factory, fulling and dyeing works, tannery, woollen mill, foundry, agricultural machinery factory, blacksmith's shop, and a paper making mill which brought him great prominence.

In 1825, William Lyon MacKenzie called a meeting in Toronto where he proposed that a bounty of 125 pounds sterling should be awarded to the first person to make paper in Upper Canada.

On December 1, 1826, James Crooks submitted his first sample of paper to the Legislature and subsequently claimed the bounty. Paper in those days did not come from the abundance of trees at his Escarp-



*'The Homestead', circa 1880, the West Flamborough residence of James Crooks and his family.*

ment hollow, but was manufactured from linen rags.

By 1828, he had also expanded his operations by building a gristmill at Hastings, near present-day Peterborough, Ont., about 220 kilometres from Crooks' Hollow. Eighteen years previous, Crooks acquired over 400 hectares (1,000 acres) there and is credited on an historical plaque with the founding of the Village of Hastings.

According to McMaster University librarian-historian David Ouellette, Crooks also led an extremely active political life, initially as an elected member of the Upper Canada Legislative Assembly, 1821-1841, and after 1841, as an appointed member of the Legislative Council in the United Parliament of Canada East and Canada West.

His immersion in the political culture of the fledgling Upper Canadian community was parallel to a formative period of growth and alteration in the complexity and direction of that culture.

Crooks played a vital, although secondary, role in the formative process. He represented, along with more visible players in the theatre of Upper Canadian politics (such as William Morris, Egerton Ryerson, and Hugh Scobie), a pivotal third force that rejected the extreme political configurations, (Toryism and Radicalism), and sought to chart a moderate middle course between them. William Morris, the acknowledged political leader of the 'middle-way' in Upper Canadian political life, looked upon Crooks as a close and trusted political intimate, as their correspondence demonstrates. Throughout his political career, Crooks could be found close behind Morris in the latter's struggle to direct the infant colonies' *ship-of-state* between the perceived dangers of Toryism and Radicalism.

Ouellette says that Crooks, for example, rejected the spectre of rebellion in 1837-38, yet lobbied diligently to have a stronger measure of liberal democracy introduced into the Province's parliament, in the form of a limited, responsible government.

Similarly, on the extraordinarily contentious matter of

church-state relations, Crooks strongly opposed Tory efforts to establish the Church of England as the state church, yet rejected the radical solution of complete separation of church and state, proposing along with Morris and others a distinct alternative — the state-support of all major religious denominations.

*So on down the line, Crooks was a spokesman for extreme moderation in Upper Canadian politics and as such was one of the first of what would come to be a familiar breed of Upper Canadian politicians.*

Canada's founding father, Sir John A. Macdonald, was a direct heir of this tradition of moderation which was rooted in an early awareness that Upper Canada was similar to, yet distinct from, both Great Britain and the United States.

During the 1830's, Crooks' industrial empire at Crooks' Hollow began to decline in the shadow of competitive operations further north on the Escarpment, such as Georgetown.

However, by 1833, James Crooks had amassed an incredible amount of land. The *Western Mercury* (forerunner of the *Hamilton Spectator*) newspaper of March 14th of that year advertised the sale of his land holdings, which by this time totalled more than 18,000 hectares (45,000 acres) throughout Upper Canada.

During his lifetime, Crooks received many honours and distinctions. Four of his brothers were also outstanding men in their communities — John of Niagara, William of Grimsby, Matthew of Ancaster and Ramsay, a leading figure in John Jacob Astor's North West Fur Company. His children also did well; for example, his son, the Honourable Adam Crooks became the Minister of Education, Attorney General and Provincial Treasurer of Ontario.

The Honourable James Crooks died on March 2, 1860, age 82 at his Crooks' Hollow *Homestead*, West Flamborough.

*Editor's Note: Cuesta invites readers who may have any additional information on James Crooks or other Escarpment area historical figures to contact us.*



The Darnley Grist Mill ruins built by James Crooks in 1813 (later called Stutt's Mills) near the Christie Dam.



James Crooks, who lived most of his life on the Niagara Escarpment, is also remembered for having founded the Village of Hastings, near Peterborough, Ontario.



The final resting place of James Crooks and his wife, Jane Cummings, long thought by some historians to be in Grimsby, is located at the Grove Cemetery (York and Hunter Streets), Dundas, Ontario. The monument was erected by Crooks' grand-daughter, Jane Crooks (1839-1916).

For the Adventurous:

# Cuesta Maps Exploration Tour of Historic Spencer Creek Area

If you are not adventurous, don't bother reading any further.

This article is only for those readers who have a yen to explore, a fascination with the past, a liking for the outdoors — and enough curiosity to familiarize themselves with the aerial photo map on the opposite page.

In short, this article is for those game enough to come with us on the **Cuesta Exploration Tour** of the

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority's historic Spencer Creek area.

The tour itself can last anywhere from an hour to a full day, depending on your schedule. And unless you are a hiker by preference, we suggest you bring your car.

## The Christie Conservation Area

The entrance to the Christie Conservation Area is located on Highway 5, across from the entrance to Flamboro Downs Racetrack, nine kilometres west of Clappison's Corners on Highway 6. Here you will discover a multi-purpose 336-hectare (840-acre) conservation area.

*For summertime visitors, we suggest bringing along a picnic lunch, your bathing suit and a fishing rod because the area is dotted with some 1,000 picnic tables and a large picnic pavilion in a beach-house-concession complex.*

The nine-metre high Christie Dam at the southeast end of the lake has created a reservoir for swimmers with 365 metres of sandy beach, fishing for large-mouth bass, rowboat and canoe rentals and excellent trout fishing — in season, of course — at any of eight trout ponds.

Although no camping facilities are as yet available, future plans call for over 500 individual campsites and several group camping areas.

*For wintertime visitors, the terrain at Christie Lake is ideally suited to snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and tobogganing.*

The Christie Dam, created to reduce springtime flooding of the nearby historic Town of Dundas, is a concrete and earth-fill structure, 183 metres long, nine metres high, with a drainage area over 150 square kilometres.

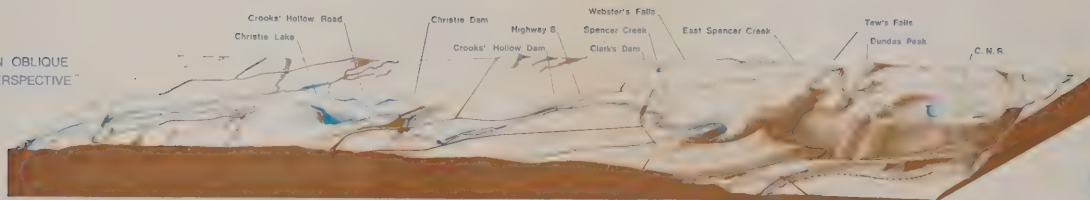
The lake now covers the original site of Atkinson's Grist Mills built in 1813 and later used to manufacture paper and cotton.

(Continued on page 38)



Christie Lake sign-post points the way to several year-round recreation activities.

AN OBLIQUE  
PERSPECTIVE



Ontario Heritage Foundation  
Authority's

## RURAL SPENCER CREEK AREA



Mill building, Crooks' Hollow Road, Dundas, Ontario, 1880s.



A view of the Darnley Grist Mill, built in 1813, from the site of the Crooks' Hollow Road, Dundas, Ontario, 1880s.

... (page 36)

After exploring the area, we suggest you drive back to the site shown on the map east on Highway 5 to Brock Road (Regional Road 4). Turn right (th) 1.5 kilometres to Greensville where you turn right at Crooks' Hollow Road. A short distance down Crooks' Hollow Road on the left you will see a public parking lot — if it's full, there is a second parking lot farther along the road.

Following the Crooks' Hollow Road, either by car or on foot, you will arrive at the historic ruins of the Darnley Grist Mill (just past Cramer Road) to begin the second part of the tour.

### Crooks' Hollow

*Crooks' Hollow is seldom noticed by those who drive through Greensville to or from the Dundas-Hamilton area. As you will see, the hollow is now overgrown by time and steeped in history.*

A wooden plaque on the ruins of the Darnley Grist Mill tells the story of the mill which was built in 1813. In the area between the Mill and the Christie Dam exist remnants of an earthen mill race, control gate, and wooden flumes. Also, in this vicinity was the site of a woolen mill built in 1826 by the Honourable James Crooks after whom the hollow is named (see page 33).

On the left directly west of the Darnley Grist Mill on the north side of Crooks' Hollow Road was the Crooks family cemetery. Don't try to find it because it no longer exists. According to some historians, James Crooks who died in 1860 was re-interred at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Grimsby. Not so. He was re-interred with his wife who died in 1861 in the Grove Cemetery (Pineview Section 16, Lot 13) Dundas, Ont. in 1902.

Just south of the Darnley Grist Mill was where James Crooks in 1826 produced the first writing-paper in Upper Canada and an historical plaque near the Crooks' Hollow bridge tells the story. The actual site, however, is in private ownership and is inaccessible to the public.

*Perhaps looking around in the immediate vicinity of*

the Darnley Grist Mill is a site where the James Crooks and family (1826-1860) established a paper mill. The mill was built in 1826 and was the first paper mill in the area. It was destroyed by fire in 1860.

From 1826-1830 Crooks continued to expand his industrial empire. According to the *West Flamboro Township Centennial 1850-1950* booklet, he built an axe, hoe and scything factory and a woolen mill in 1828. In 1829, he added a tanning mill, an oil mill for extracting linseed oil, and a plaster mill for grinding plaster. In 1830, an ashery where he extracted lime from ash and plastered into pearl ash.

Walking east back along Crooks' Hollow Road, just past the second parking lot near the water's edge are the ruins of Morden's Mills, a saw and grist mill built in 1789 by one of the first settlers in the area, James Morden. It operated until 1815.

Following the river eastward towards the small Crooks' Hollow Dam and the first parking lot are located the foundations of the Wentworth Steam Bending Works built in 1862. It burned down four years later. Another mill built on the ruins by J. Cockburn operated until 1945. Today you can still see the concrete mill race and the remains of the earthen dam which was breached in October, 1954 as a result of Hurricane Hazel.

Unless you want to walk to Webster's Falls, it is time to return to the car and proceed back along Crooks' Hollow Rd. Continue east a few hundred metres through Greensville and take your first right following the Brock Rd. south (Regional Road 4). Immediately after you have turned right you will notice a sign on a corner of a property which says EFCOM Ltd. Behind the building, a fence is privately owned and inaccessible to the public, is the site of the now defunct Steele's Distillery, which was enlarged in 1860 and became the largest distillery in Ontario. The Flamboro Distillery, as it was known, fed 1,200 head of cattle and 1,500 head of swine from the waste, according to the *West Flamboro Township Centennial 1850-1950* booklet.

At Bullock's Corners, a short, half-kilometre south of



A sketch circa 1842 of the Ashbourne Roller Mills at Webster's Falls. Today the site is a parking lot owned by the

Town of Dundas. The bridge in the centre foreground is the site of the present day foot-bridge above Webster's Fall.

Greensville (the first stop sign), turn left (east) and cross over Spencer Creek. At the T junction (Falls View Road), just to the left you will notice a gift boutique called the Old Stone Gallery, formerly part of the Clark's Blanket Factory complex built in 1841.

### Wilderness Area

At the T junction, turn right on Falls View Road and follow it a short distance to the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority's parking lot and their 57-hectare (140-acre) Spencer Gorge Wilderness Area.

It is here that the Spencer Creek plunges over the Escarpment at Webster's Falls.

To the right of the parking lot is Webster's Falls Park, operated by the Town of Dundas. It was in this locale that Joseph Webster in 1819 bought 31 hectares (78 acres) — complete with a 10-year-old distillery conveniently located under a stone house above the falls. In 1830, his son, also named Joseph, built the Ashbourne Mills which flourished until 1898 when fire destroyed the structure. A George Harper in 1899 then built below the falls the second hydro generating electric power plant in Ontario. This power gave the Town of Dundas, at the base of the Escarpment, its first street electricity.

The Ashbourne Mills site was acquired by the Town of Dundas through the generosity of a Flamborough resident, Lt.-Col. W. E. S. Knowles. The resultant park



Webster's Falls and Escarpment area park owned by the Town of Dundas. The foot-bridge crossing Spencer Creek incorporates part of the original Webster Dam.



Clark's Woollen Mill and Bullock's Dam circa 1867, at Bullock's Corners. Today, all that remains is the building at

the centre behind the trees which is currently a gift boutique called the Old Stone Gallery.



Tew's Falls

remains a shrine in his memory and that of Joseph Webster who created and maintained an early industry there.

An interesting and easy half-kilometre hiking nature trail to the northeast leads to a second scenic area — Tew's Falls or if you prefer the drive, follow the arrows on the map. Beyond Tew's Falls the trail leads to Dundas Peak, a large promontory overlooking the Town of Dundas. This area offers a spectacular view of the entire Dundas Valley and the City of Hamilton.

Photographers and nature lovers alike can be found year round exploring the Spencer Gorge Wilderness Area and the surrounding valley — so bring your camera — you won't be disappointed.

While that rounds out the **Cuesta Exploration Tour** of the historic Spencer Creek Area, the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority has lots more to offer the public — another 19 scenic recreation and conservation sites in the Hamilton-Dundas Valley area.

In fact, the Authority recently won an honourable mention in the prestigious Heritage Canada Foundation Awards for its "contribution in historic interpretation . . . above and beyond their mandate of environmental preservation".

For further information we suggest you write or phone: the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, P.O. Box 99, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, L9G 3L3, or Telephone (416) 525-2181. ■

## Big Plans:

# Government Loan Assists Blue Mountain Expansion



PHOTOS FOR THIS ARTICLE COURTESY BLUE MOUNTAIN RESORTS LTD.

A chairlift takes you up and the Great Slide Ride whistles you down 912 metres (3,000 feet) along an asbestos cement raceway. Latest plans at Blue Mountain call for developing a third ski area and upgrading all facilities at Blue Mountain and Georgian Peaks. An Ontario government loan is helping to make Blue Mountain a premier four-season resort.

Collingwood's Blue Mountain is fast becoming a premier four-season resort, thanks to a vigorous expansion program recently launched with the help of a \$2.9 million Ontario government loan.

The loan, approved last summer, was made to Blue Mountain Resorts Limited to assist in financing its \$21.8 million seven-year expansion and improvement program.

Blue Mountain is designated in the Niagara Escarpment Commission's Proposed Plan as an Escarpment Recreation Area.

In its submission to the public hearing on the Proposed Plan, Blue Mountain Resorts stated: "It is our belief that, as fuel prices rise, the Collingwood area will become increasingly attractive as a mid-point recreation destination, due to its dual winter-summer resource base, and its location. . . . The growing diversity of market segments, and the highly competitive nature of the tourism industry, make it essential that the future physical plant meet high standards . . . this means expansion of existing facilities, and new developments in attractions and travel generators, accommodation and other service industries."

Blue Mountain Resorts' plans include improving the recently acquired Georgian Peaks ski resort, expanding hotel accommodations, upgrading all of its facilities, and developing a third ski area at Blue Mountain.

Last summer the company opened its second major summer attraction — a \$500,000 *Slipper Dipper Water Slide* which the company anticipates will attract an additional 50,000 summer tourists to the area.

A 13 metre (42-foot) high ramp stairway takes riders to the top of the heated slide where they mount one of three fibreglass flumes for a wet and exhilarating ride through tunnels, over drops and down straightaways into a splashdown pool.

In 1977, Blue Mountain had installed a \$500,000 *Great Slide Ride* which combines a scenic chairlift ride with a 912 metre (3,000-foot) descent in a plastic sled.



*Splashdown! The Slipper Dipper Water Slide is a recent addition to summer attractions at Blue Mountain in Collingwood.*

The Blue Mountain area also boasts some breathtaking scenic vistas from the Bruce Trail as the Trail skirts along the top of the Niagara Escarpment looking out over Nottawasaga Bay.

Warm-weather activities in the Collingwood area include sailing, wind surfing, swimming, tennis, golf, horseback riding — and most recently, a summer art school — the Blue Mountain School of Landscape Painting.

Blue Mountain Resorts anticipates the total expansion program will require an additional 350 employees. Spin-off employment within the area to service the increased tourist load is expected to increase by at least 300 jobs over the same period.

The company is fully Canadian-owned — operating Ontario's largest skiing facility. ■

(Continued from page 29)

American sycamore near Alvinston with a girth of 27 feet 1 inch (825.5 cm), a height of 98 feet (29.87 m) and a crown spread of 71 feet (21.6 m). This champion is located beside the Sydenham River, about 1.5 kilometres south of Highway 80 in southwestern Ontario.

The tallest tree recorded is a 148 foot (45.11 m) white pine located on the International Cooperage land in Haliburton County near Algonquin Park.

When Albert Butwick isn't cataloguing trees for the Honour Roll, he busies himself growing rare and endangered species from seeds and cuttings on his one-acre property in Millgrove, a short distance from the Flamborough section of the Niagara Escarpment.

He also raises native Ontario trees for distribution to such organizations as the Royal Botanical Gardens, the University of Guelph's Arboretum and the Vineland Horticultural Institute.

"They know how to care for trees," he said, "and they plant where the public can see and enjoy them." ■



*Certificates of appreciation from the Ontario Forestry Association regarding local initiatives to save and preserve the giant Dundas Elm were awarded to: (l-r) Don Middleton, Dundas Heritage Association; Helen Barasevic, property owner of the Dundas Elm; Geoff Munro, Davey Tree Experts; Michael Barasevic, property owner; Barbara Johnson, Students' Park Fund; Don Buntain, teacher, Parkside High School, Dundas; and Carrie Langdon, Students' Park Fund.*

(Continued from page 7)

The Huxtable family also owned a 190-acre property which was acquired by the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests in 1970 and turned into the unique Pine River Provincial Fishing Area.

And an historical plaque is located in the hamlet.

In the face of such a barrage of supporting facts, MTC reconsidered its position and ultimately agreed that the community deserved recognition.

Now, if you want to find Horning's Mills — just look it up in Ontario's Official 1980/81 Road Map. You'll find it located 8 kilometres north of Shelburne, off Highway 24 — just where it used to be!

You'll also find it on Map 5 of the Niagara Escarpment Commission's Proposed Plan. ■



The historical significance of Horning's Mills is proclaimed by a plaque located in the hamlet.



A small portion of the substantial and historic J.B. Morton archaeological collection.

(Continued from page 8)

In his will Jack Morton specified that the collection should remain as one complete collection; that it should remain as close as possible to where the artifacts were originally found; that it should be made available for display; and that ownership should revert to an Ancaster museum if one was ever built.

E. Judy Harris, Woodland Centre museum curator, said the less sensitive artifacts will eventually be placed on display — while the more sensitive specimens are to be made available to researchers, archaeologists and students.

Thanks to Jack Morton, his life-long hobby graphically illustrates some 8,000 years of man's activities along the Escarpment and, as such, stands as a priceless heritage resource for future generations.

The Woodland Centre is located at 184 Mohawk Street in Brantford. ■

(Continued from page 27)

siderable losses were suffered on both sides. British casualties included 23 killed, 136 wounded and 55 missing; American statistics disclosed 17 killed, 38 wounded and 100 taken prisoner.

The wounded on both sides were taken to the home of James Gage, where his wife Mary and her family tore up sheets and tablecloths to bind the wounds.

The Gage House, riddled with musket shot, weathered the historic Battle of Stoney Creek to become "Battlefield House", a monument to the successful defence of the Niagara Peninsula.

The War of 1812 ended in December, 1814, when

both countries signed the Treaty of Ghent and accepted a return to the pre-war land boundaries.

A 30-metre stone monument on the Escarpment flank commemorates more than a century and a half of peace between Canada and the United States.

Today, the historic Battle of Stoney Creek is commemorated each year by a formal flag raising ceremony.

In the past, the Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce aided by volunteer groups have re-enacted the Battle of Stoney Creek complete with "Brown Bess firelocks" and cavalry charges — perhaps they will again. ■

(Continued from page 28)

havo. They used James Gage's fences for firewood; they gleefully refreshed themselves at John Brady's hotel, "not leaving until they had eaten and drunk everything in the place"; and they took Isaac Corman, Billy Green's brother-in-law, to their camp for interrogation.

This last American action catapulted Billy into action. He set out to rescue Corman.

Billy's account states: "I started and ran; every now and then I would stop and whistle, until I got across the creek. When I heard Isaac hoot like an owl, I thought the enemy had him there, but he was coming alone."

Isaac Corman, a native of Kentucky and a first cousin of U.S. General William Henry Harrison, returned in possession of the American password.

An amiable American major who, it turned out, was a second cousin of General Harrison, took pity on Corman and gave him the password to secure him safe passage through American lines.

Billy now aware of the password and the strength and position of the American forces felt duty bound to warn the British; the only remaining question was how!

He raced to Levi's house and borrowed the old horse, Tip.

Billy's account continued: "I led him along the mountain side until I could get to the top. Then I rode him away around the gully where I dismounted and tied old Tip to the fence and left him there, making my way on foot to Burlington Heights."

On reaching the British fortifications, Billy was taken to Lieutenant-Colonel John Harvey who questioned him closely on his knowledge of the area and the verity of the information he brought.

Later that evening, Colonel Harvey, satisfied with the accuracy of Billy's information, requested an interview with Brigadier-General John Vincent and proposed a surprise night attack.

Billy recalled: "We got started about 11:30 p.m. Colonel Harvey asked me if I knew the way and I said 'Yes, every inch of it'. He gave me a . . . sword and told me to take the lead."

The night was moonless and foggy, with flashes of heat lightning streaking across the black sky. The ground underfoot was rough, wet and treacherous.

Billy encouraged the regulars to keep up the pace or, in his own words "hustle" across the Red Hill Creek to reach the American lines before dawn.

Not far from the Red Hill Creek they ran into the first line of sentries.

"I espied a sentry leaning against a tree," Billy recounted. "I told the man behind me to shoot him but Colonel Harvey said, 'No, run him through', and he was despatched."

The next sentry was encountered at the church. "He discharged his gun and demanded a pass. I grabbed his gun with one hand and put my sword to him with the other."

Billy was in the thick of the fighting that followed.

"The order was given to 'Fix flint! Fire!' We fired three rounds and advanced about 100 yards. Then we banged away again. There was a rush in our middle ranks; their south flank charged, then came the orders for our flank to charge. This was where we lost most of our men. . . . The centre rank captured two of their guns. Then the general order was given to charge and we drove them back. We could hear them scampering. We were ordered to fire and we shot all our powder away. When it commenced to get daylight, we could see the enemy running in all directions."

Billy, the Scout, who died in 1877 at the age of 83, played a distinct role in the Battle of Stoney Creek. Indeed, without his daring, the British forces may have lost this crucial battle of the War of 1812.

Perhaps the last word on Billy Green should be left to singer/composer Stan Rogers, a native of the Stoney Creek area:

*And so it was I played the man though I was but nineteen,  
I led our forces through the night that this land could be  
free.  
I foiled the Yank invaders and I helped put them to rout.  
So let no man forget the name of Billy Green, the Scout.*

(Continued from page 21)

"Then my *sister-in-law*, Edith Sainsbury, wanted to do it, so I said I'd go along with her," and in 1969 Ida completed her second day-packing trek of the Trail.

Then, of course, in 1977, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Bruce Trail, Ida wanted to do it again — only this time alone — camping along the route or staying at inns or with friends.

"I left the Northern Cairn in Tobermory on June 10, 1977.

"It was a wonderful feeling," she recorded in her diary, "to walk away from the Cairn, alone and with high hopes of reaching the southern terminus of Queenston, Niagara."

*Her husband, Fred, met her on weekends with supplies, and, except for four days off because of a foot infection and another two days off "just to rest", Ida accomplished her goal on July 12. She did it in 29 walking days — carrying a 35-pound pack.*

*Since Ida first conquered the Bruce Trail more than 54 women have followed in her steps.*

Her longest walk has been the 3,218-kilometre Ap-

palachian Trail which she hiked with another grandmother, Mary Years, of Newark, New York.

They started out from Baxter State Park in Maine in August, 1970 — hiked for one month, came back and hiked a second segment in five weeks the following year — and finished it off with a 1,207-kilometre push during the summer of '73 — ending up at Springer Mountain in Georgia. Total walking days — 164.

Her "pet walk" was 64 kilometres across the North Yorkshire moors of England in 1976 in 21½ hours in the middle of a July heatwave.

When Ida isn't hiking, she peddles around her home area of Weston on her bike and keeps in shape during the winter months with a rowing machine in her basement while she does her washing.

And as for Ida and her future plans?

"Just keep on hiking. It's the best therapy in the world." And advice to anyone thinking of taking up hiking: "Never let foul weather, bugs, or the fear of wild animals deter you. Our wilderness is fragile, the ecology delicate. And the best way to enjoy it is on foot with care and respect."



**Lee Symmes**

**1916-1980**



**Ivan Buchanan**

**1909-1980**

Niagara Escarpment Commission members and staff were deeply saddened by the deaths recently of Commission members Lee Symmes and Ivan Buchanan.

Mr. Symmes served on the Commission since 1975, representing the public-at-large.

Mr. Buchanan, who was appointed as one of the original members of the Commission in 1973, represented the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

George Luther (Lee) Symmes, 64, of Caledon, was a farmer and ardent conservationist with a distinguished record of voluntary public service. In 1972 he became involved in a controversy with Ontario Hydro over a proposed power line corridor and formed a Coalition of Concerned Citizens.

Subsequently, an independent consultant redesigned the corridor and Ontario Hydro later adopted a system of increased public participation in its line planning and approval procedures.

Mr. Symmes was a graduate of the University of Toronto. In 1940, he enlisted as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Canadian Army, served with distinction in Europe with the 5th Canadian Armoured Division and Lord Strathcona's Horse Regiment. He retired as a major from active military service in 1951.

Mr. Symmes was a member of the Conservation Council of Ontario, the Sierra Club, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and a former member of the Interested Citizens Advisory Committee to the Parkway

Belt West Master Plan and the Ontario Mineral Aggregate Working Party.

He died June 12, 1980, in Georgetown, after a lengthy illness.

Ivan Buchanan, former mayor of St. Catharines and regional councillor until his retirement in 1978, devoted 38 years to public life.

A native of St. Catharines, Mr. Buchanan was honoured for his contribution to his community by Brock University in 1976 when he was presented with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

In presenting the honorary doctorate, Brock University President Dr. Alan Earp said of Mr. Buchanan: "His long record of service and achievement in this Region has been characterized, not by self-importance . . . but rather by a sense of enjoyment, an essential humility, and a respect for the individual which, to paraphrase his own words, the practice of agriculture serves to instil."

A fruit grower, Mr. Buchanan entered politics in 1941 when he was elected councillor on Grantham council.

He later served two terms as mayor of St. Catharines. He was a regional councillor from 1970 to 1978, a member of the Brock University board of governors from 1966 to 1974, and a member of the Niagara Regional Board of Commissioners of Police from 1970 to 1978.

He died September 10, 1980, in St. Catharines, at the age of 71. ■

